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THE PRODUCER
THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume XIII DENVER, COLORADO, DECEMBER, 1931 Number 7

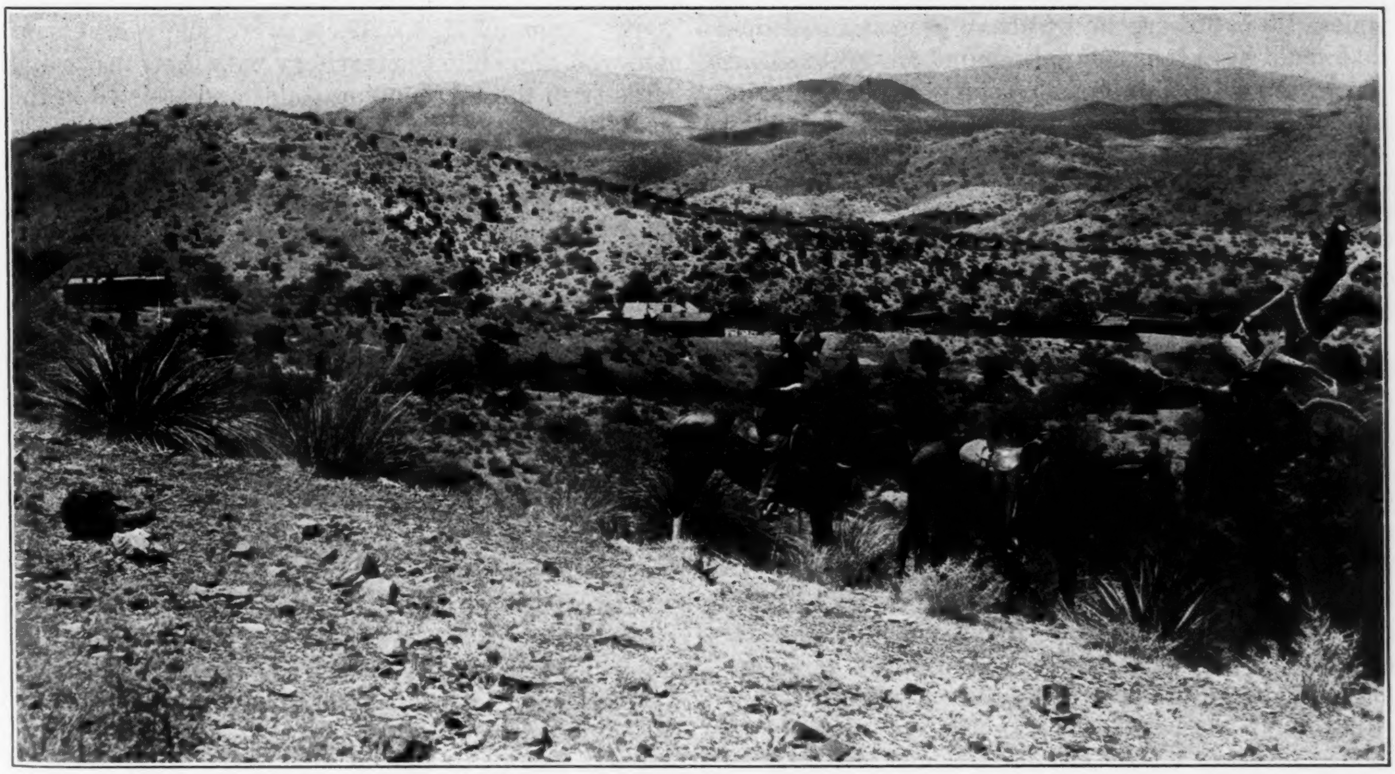
# Early History of Cattle Industry in Arizona

**BY BERT HASKETT**

*Bureau of Animal Industry*

[*Concluded from November number*]

THE BUILDING OF THE TWO GREAT transcontinental railways across Arizona in 1883—one through the northern, the other through the southern, part of the territory—was the chief factor in opening up the ranges of those parts for cattlemen seeking new grazing lands. The virgin richness of the valleys and uplands, the mildness of the climate, and the general fitness of the country for the production of cattle in large numbers served to encourage many adventurous spirits—men ever willing to seek the gold at the rainbow's end, both throughout the United States and in foreign lands,



COWBOYS ON ARIZONA RANCH

and to try the cattle game in the new Eldorado of the Southwest, where grass was free and law was lax. And so it was that every running stream and permanent spring was settled upon, ranch homes built, and the adjoining ranges stocked with cattle brought in on foot and by rail from Durango, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Mexico, and from the territories and states of the Union as far east as Maryland.

In the northern part of the territory, near where the town of Flagstaff was later founded, John Wood is said to have established the first cattle ranch in the Mogollon Mountains with a herd of seventy-eight head driven in from New Mexico in 1877. It remained, however, for two large concerns—the Aztec Land and Cattle Company and the A One Cattle Company—in the middle eighties, to secure possession of vast tracts of land from the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad Company, and practically to dominate for a number of years all of northern Arizona. According to accounts, the former of these companies—known locally as the "Hashknife"—said to have been largely British-owned, shipped 38,000 cattle to its range holdings in northern Arizona from Texas, which at that time was anxious to disgorge from its overstocked pastures. Former employees of the old Hashknife outfit state that its range was 90 miles long by 40 miles wide, and that in the late eighties, when at the zenith of its power and influence, its cattle fed over a much larger area than this. The original A One Company, long since defunct, whose main headquarters were a few miles north of Flagstaff, had a range consisting of 875 square miles, being 35 miles long by 25 miles wide. Its cattle are said to have been the best-bred that could be obtained in large numbers at that time. They were shipped in from Washington, Oregon, Missouri, and Kansas. For the most part, this company was owned by eastern capitalists. The first shipment of cattle from northern Arizona consisted of two carloads made from Flagstaff in the summer of 1884.

### Some Pioneer Cattlemen

Of the larger holders of land and cattle prominent in the early development of southern Arizona, in addition to those previously mentioned, were Colin and Brewster Cameron, of the San Rafael de la Zanja Land Grant; Tevis, Perrin, Land & Co., of the Babocomari Land Grant; the Whitbeck Cattle Company, of the San Pedro Valley; the Chiricahua Cattle Company, of the Sulphur Springs Valley; the Dripping Springs Cattle Company, of Gila County; the San Simon Cattle Company, of the San Simon Valley; the Kinsler & Ming Cattle Company, of Tonto Basin; and many others that came into being in the late seventies and early eighties.

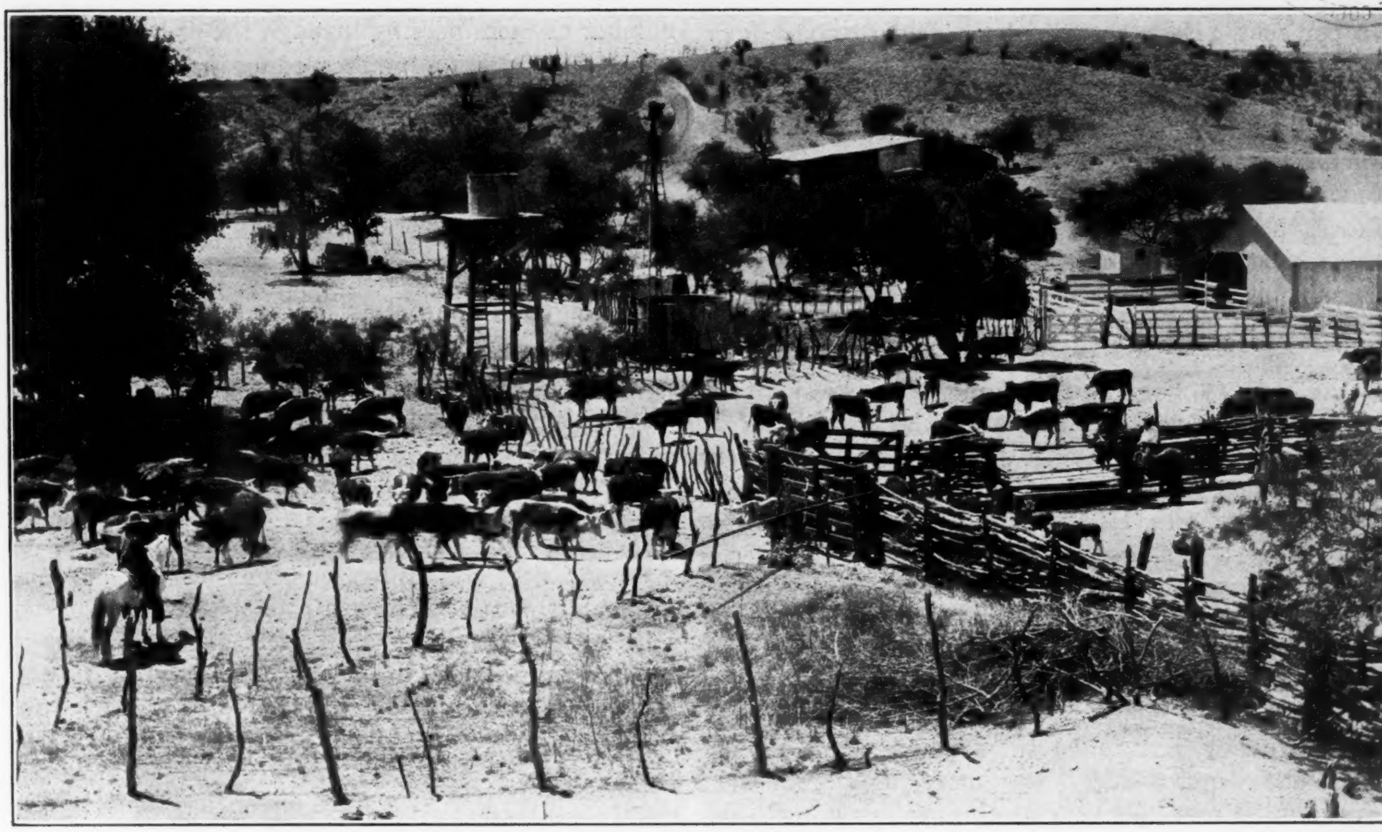
There were, moreover, many private owners of cattle who played important parts in the early settlement of the territory, such as John La Tourette, who drove cattle in from Kalamath, Oregon—a distance of 1,700 miles—and settled on the Verde River, fifty miles north of Phoenix, in 1877, bringing his family with him in a covered wagon drawn by an ox-team; John H. Slaughter, who came in with a herd from Texas the same year and established the San Bernadino Ranch, near the international boundary line, seventeen miles east of where the city of Douglas now is; W. H. Munds, who entered the upper Verde Valley from California in 1876; Charles S. Black, also from California, who settled on Kirkland Creek in 1876; J. M. Sears, who located on the lower Verde River with cattle from California in 1878; the Redondo brothers, who took up their abode near Yuma with a herd from the Golden State in 1874; Eben Stanley, who pre-empted a range near Springerville with cattle from the East in 1879; J. N. Porter, with cattle from the Lone Star State, who settled in Cochise County in 1881; and James C. Pursley, who located near Wilcox, also with cattle from Texas.

Others prominent in the cattle business in the early days in Arizona were William Wakefield, Tucson, 1878; G. W. Atkinson, Calabasin, 1879; J. S. Robbins, Cochise County, 1880; James Stinson, Tonto Basin, 1880; Allen Doyle, Flagstaff, 1881; Mariano G. Samaniego, Tucson, 1881; Burt Dunlap, founder of the Dunlap Ranch, Aravapai Valley, 1882; Frank and W. G. Dickerson, Beaver Creek, 1883; Teofilo E. Aros, Pima County, 1884; J. W. Ellison, who shipped cattle from Texas to Bowie, Arizona, and drove them overland by way of Reno Pass into Tonto Basin in 1886. There were many others of note who came into the territory with their flocks and herds from the surrounding states and assisted in the upbuilding of the new country during these years.

The first cattle ranch in the Salt River Valley seems to have been that of Thomas Thompson Hunter, who came in from Texas with his original herd in 1868 and settled west of Hayden's Butte on the north side of the river. These cattle grazed over much of the area now comprised within the limits of the city of Phoenix.

### Development of Mining Gives Impetus to Beef Industry

During the years while the cattle industry was taking root, the great mining camps of the territory were forging ahead at full blast. Beef cattle in sufficient numbers to supply California and the home market up until 1884 were not to be had. Prices for the time being were good, three-year-old steers selling for three and a half to four cents a pound on the hoof. Under these favorable auspices, the herds were enlarged and their quality improved. Bulls of good breeding were purchased in large numbers and



CATTLE RETURNING TO HOME RANCH TO SLAKE THEIR THIRST

turned loose on the range, which accounts for the fact that Arizona cattle surpassed in quality those from Texas and New Mexico.

It soon happened, however, that cattlemen in Arizona were riding for a fall, as the number of fat steers on hand in 1885 exceeded the local market requirements. As a consequence, an outlet for the surplus had to be sought in the East. A shipment of 500 head of three- and four-year-old steers, the first of the kind, from the best graded herd in the territory, was accordingly made to the Kansas City stockyards in November of that year, which netted the owner $27.50 per head—a good price for that time, and proving, if the territorial papers were to be believed, that Arizona, on account of the superior quality of her grass lands, the productiveness of her herds, and the early maturity of her cattle, could compete on an equal footing in the eastern markets with the other sections of the country in the production of finished beef from the open range. The result was that ranchmen endeavored to hold all she-stock and to market in that way only their matured steers as beef—a plan that went awry, as the ranges were deteriorating, the last fat cattle in any appreciable numbers being sold from the open range in May and June, 1886. From that time on, all steers were disposed of to feeder-buyers, the she-stock in most cases being held for breeding purposes.

Up until the turn of the century at least the peak of cattle production in Arizona seems to have been reached in 1891. The total number on the assessment rolls for the various counties for that year shows 720,941 head—probably a fair assessment in comparison with the method of listing other property in the territory at that time. Taking one thing with another, however, men whose judgment is not at fault in such matters maintain that there were fully 1,500,000 cattle in Arizona in that year.

### Drought and Overgrazing Ruin Ranges

But a new experience for Arizona cattlemen was now in the offing. The virgin pastures that had seemed in the beginning to be forever inexhaustible were commencing to wane. The overstocked ranges were now being annually depleted of their grasses, none being left over for lean years. In the spring of 1891 the bubble burst, droughty conditions—the first of any consequence—coming on; a state of affairs that increased in intensity throughout the next two years. By June of 1892 the grass had practically all disappeared from the ranges, many of the water-holes had failed, and cattle losses had reached large proportions. Fresh pastures had to be sought. During the next two or three months most of the cattle in southern Arizona were shipped to Texas, Indian Territory, Kansas, California, Nevada, and as far north as Oregon. The drought ended in July, 1893. Conservative estimates place the loss of cattle at 50 per cent, and some ranchmen say that it ran as high as

75 per cent. Had the rains been delayed sixty days longer, it is said that no cattle would have been left in southern Arizona.

But while range conditions continued to improve during the latter half of 1893 and in the months that followed, cattlemen were in a bad way financially. Losses had been heavy, and the drought in many cases had left the range without bulls, resulting in no calf crops for the years 1894 and 1895, ranchers for the most part being too poor to buy others. Then, too, the panic of 1893 was on, bringing financial ruin to the country. In the meantime, markets slumped and values vanished into thin air. The top prices for cattle at that time was $5.50 for yearlings, $8.50 for two-year-olds, and $11.50 for three-year-olds. Recovery was slow. In 1896 yearlings brought $8, two-year-olds $11, and three-year-olds $15.

According to accounts, the cattle brought into Arizona during the seventies and eighties for breeding and stock purposes were for the most part Texas and Mexican Longhorns—a type that was hardy, and adapted to the range and the climatic conditions of the Southwest, but failed to meet the standard of excellence demanded by the more discriminating breeders. From the very beginning, such men as Colonel H. C. Hooker, whom the newspaper men of the present day would call "an outstanding personality," the Sanfords, the Vails, the Camerons, and many others, sought cattle of better blood lines—quality rather than numbers. A small herd of improved Shorthorns brought in by Colonel Hooker in 1875 seems to have been the first aristocrats of the bovine world to have graced the ranges of the territory; followed soon after, it would appear, by purebred Shorthorns from the Murphy herd of California. The blood of the bulls from this last-named strain is said to have been widely disseminated and to have improved the quality of practically all cattle in southern Arizona.

It remained, however, for the Hereford to take possession of the range, and to force other types and breeds to the side lines. The first cattle of this strain —a shipment of sixty head of purebred bulls eight months old—were brought to Arizona in November, 1883. While an old and well-known breed, the Herefords had never before been tried out on the ranges of the Southwest in numbers sufficient to demonstrate their worth. Along with the importer, this first shipment was subjected to much unfavorable comment. Many old-time cattlemen—men who knew cattle and range conditions from *a* to *izzard*—predicted that they would quickly succumb to the hardships of the range. The following spring, however, all sixty head were alive and in good condition, having thrived and grown throughout the winter on the range feed alone. Reports state that these bulls did excellent range service, exceeding the most sanguine expectations, a number of them passing through the drought of 1892 and 1893, and some few, according to accounts, being still alive in 1896.

**Stockmen Organize to Keep Out Infectious Diseases**

As a result of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the New England states and in Canada in 1884, traceable to importations of cattle thus affected from England, and due to the fact that pleuro-pneumonia was then prevalent in cattle at points as far west as Missouri, cattlemen in Arizona became aroused to the danger of the spread of these scourges to the herds within the territory. A meeting of stockmen was accordingly called, and a territorial stock association formed in that year to prevent the entrance into the territory of animals exposed to, or infected with, any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease. While this association was purely voluntary, it arrogated unto itself, in the absence of any properly constituted body, the authority to prevent the importation of any class of live stock thus affected. It was sustained in this attitude by the executive of the territory and all persons interested in the welfare of Arizona. In order that the territory might be able to act the more effectually, in conjunction with the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, in stamping out contagious diseases of live stock, and in order to assist in preventing their introduction within its borders, the Live Stock Sanitary Board was created by legislative enactment in 1887, and clothed by law with the power to make and enforce rules and regulations governing the admission of live stock into the territory. The appointment of a competent graduate veterinarian to act in co-operation with the board in such matters was also provided for at the time.

The last of the Apache outbreaks occurred in 1884, when Geronimo and a band of hostiles left the San Carlos Reservation and terrorized southern Arizona and New Mexico, and northern Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico, for a period of two years. After once surrendering to General Crook in March, 1886, they again broke away, but were recaptured by troops under General Miles five months later. As they could no longer be trusted to remain peaceably on the reservation set aside for them, they were sentenced for their crimes and misdeeds to confinement for life in the various military prisons in distant parts of the country. Geronimo, the leader of the band, died a prisoner at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1909.

Of late years the various tribal groups of the Apaches confined on reservations in Arizona and New Mexico are being taught the arts of agriculture and stock-raising. Figuratively, if not literally, since they used no such weapons, their swords are being molded into plow-shares.

Among the great horde of adventurous spirits that flocked into Arizona during the seventies and eighties from the surrounding states and territories by way of the long trails with the pioneer cattle herds were many young daredevils—the flotsam and jetsam, as it were, of the older settlements, destined to play notorious roles in the colorful life of the frontier. But, happily, these were in the minority, and were soon forced to move on or pay the extreme penalty. A preponderance of those who sought homes in the new borderland were men and women who believed in law and order, and in the sanctity of the home, and who were willing to face dangers and the vicissitudes of a new country, to live in Spartan simplicity, and to stand by patiently during times of drought and financial storms. It was such dauntless souls as these that subdued the wilderness and made the Southwest what it is today.

## LAND UTILIZATION CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS (IN MUCH abbreviated form), submitted to the 350 or more registered delegates attending the Land Utilization Conference called by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde and the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities at Chicago, November 19 to 21, were approved as the majority sentiment of the conference:

1. *Administration of Public Domain.*—That, in order to obtain conservation and rehabilitation of the grazing ranges of the public domain, these lands be organized into public ranges, to be administered by a federal agency in a manner similar to and in co-ordination with the national forests. Such public ranges should include lands withdrawn for minerals or for other purposes, when the use of such lands for grazing is not inconsistent with the purposes of withdrawal.

2. *Watershed Protection.*—That lands valuable for watershed protection should be administered under the supervision of the federal government.

3. *Protection of School Lands.*—That efforts be made to have laws enacted which will permit the exchange of the present school lands for others equal in value.

4. *Agricultural Credit.*—That the Secretary of Agriculture call into conference representatives of various credit agencies engaged in making loans to farmers, for the purpose of formulating a definite and co-ordinate program which credit agencies may adopt to assist in bringing about immediate readjustment in land utilization and farm organization.

5. *Outlook Work.*—Preparation and publication at frequent intervals of national and local outlook reports.

6. *Economic Inventory of Land Resources and Classification of Soils.*—That a national inventory be made of our land resources, that soils be classified on the basis of their agricultural value, and that our land taxation system and practices be readjusted accordingly.

7. *Homestead Interest.*—That the several homestead acts be administered in the future with more careful supervision of land available for home-making. Lands classed as marginal or submarginal should be withdrawn from homestead entry and definitely added to the public range.

8. *Taxation.*—First, that the states take effective steps to revise their systems of taxation; second, that total expenditures should be held in check and reduced wherever possible; third, that greater co-ordination should be brought about between the federal government and the state in taxation.

9. *Land Development.*—That land development enterprises be licensed and regulated.

10. *Regional Competition.*—That increased attention be given to a study of all the factors affecting the feasibility of land for agricultural use.

11. *Reclamation.*—That the Reclamation Service confine its efforts to finishing projects already started, and to rehabilitating deficient water rights on lands now cultivated and occupied.

12. *Use of Marginal Land.*—That federal and state agencies develop a co-ordinate program of land utilization for the extensive areas of idle or misused lands.

13. *Public Retention or Acquisition of Land.*—With the exception of small areas acquired for special requirements, federal land acquisition through purchase at present is confined to the following main purposes: (1) forest lands for the protection of the head-waters of navigable streams; (2) for growing timber; (3) bird and game refuges; (4) national parks and monuments. State land acquisition is confined mainly to the establishment of state parks and forests. There appear to be a number of important objectives in public acquisition, in addition to those mentioned.

14. *Soil Conservation.*—Steps should be taken to initiate a program of soil conservation whereby damage from erosion, leaching, increasing acidity, destruction of organic matter, deterioration of soil structure, overgrazing, flooding, and alkali accumulation may be reduced to a minimum.

15. *Land Classification.*—An essential basis of economic investigation in land utilization is adequate physical data in the form of soil surveys, topographic surveys, weather records, etc. There is obvious need for co-ordinating this survey work with the land-utilization surveys aimed at the development of a program of land utilization.

16. *Decentralization of Industry and Its Effect upon Land Utilization.*—That a study be made of possible decentralization of industry and population from the point of view of land utilization.

17. *Regional Conferences.*—That the Secretary of Agriculture, in conjunction with the land-grant colleges and other agricultural agencies, call regional land-utilization conferences throughout the country, for the purpose of co-operating with the committees proposed by this conference in consummating a sound and constructive national land-use policy.

18. *Creation of Committees.*—Creation of two committees—one to be known as the National Land Use Planning Committee, and the other to be known as the National Advisory and Legislative Committee on Land Use.

*National Land Use Planning Committee.*—That five representatives from the Department of Agriculture (one each from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, the Forest Service, and the Extension Service); one from the Federal Farm Board; three from the Department of the Interior (one each from the Reclamation Service, the Geological Survey, and the Land Office); one from the Federal Farm Loan Board; and five from the Land Grant College Association, be chosen to represent the different agricultural regions of the country.

*National Advisory and Legislative Committee on Land Use.*—That the following organizations shall appoint the number of persons named to comprise this committee, and that this committee may add such members to it as it will deem advisable: American Farm Bureau Federation, five members; National Grange, five members; National Farmers' Union, three members; United States Chamber of Commerce, one member; National Co-operative Council, five members; American Bankers' Association, one member; National Association of Commissioners and Secretaries of Agriculture, one member; American Forestry Association, one member; American Agricultural Editors' Association, three members; National Wool Growers' Association, one member; American National Live Stock Association, one member; American Railway Development Association, one member.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTION COUNCILS

MEETING IN CHICAGO ON NOVEMBER 3 AND 4, 1931, the Live Stock Advisory Committee agreed upon the following recommendations to be submitted to the Federal Farm Board:

*Live-Stock Production Policy.*—"In order to assist in the distribution and publicity of information among stockmen of market requirements, your committee recommends that the Federal Farm Board appoint a committee of fifty, to be termed a 'Council Group on Swine Production;' that this committee include appropriate representatives of the Department of Agriculture, and include also representatives of the agricultural colleges, the extension service in the chief hog-producing states, agricultural editors, processors, retailers, and such other indviduals as the Federal Farm Board sees fit to appoint; that this committee assemble not later than April 1 and October 1 of each year, and, after study and deliberation, make its recommendations on a hog-production policy to the Live Stock Advisory Committee, this council to meet at the call of the Advisory Committee. We also recommend that the Federal Farm Board appoint a similar committee for the purpose of considering both cattle and sheep production.

*Foreign Outlets.*—"The Live Stock Advisory Committee commends the efforts made by the Farm Board to dispose of our agricultural surplus by finding additional foreign markets for American food commodities, and recommends that the Federal Farm Board attempt to secure additional outlets abroad for American live-stock products through such means as will make it possible for new or former buyers to acquire them.

*Market Classes and Grades.*—"The committee reaffirms that the establishment and recognition of trade standards of market classes and grades of live stock is a subject of great importance to the industry, and calls the attention of the Federal Farm Board to the progress made in working out such standards for market classes and grades of hogs by the joint committee representing the producing and packing industries, with the appreciated assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture. The committee recommends that the establishment of trade standards for market classes and grades of cattle and sheep should be encouraged.

*Open Markets.*—"The committee believes that it is fundamental to the live-stock industry that trading on the terminal markets be kept free and open, and unhampered by any practices that tend to restrict it. In this connection, the committee commends and indorses the efforts of the Secretary of Agriculture in enforcing the provisions of the Packers and Stock Yards Act, which is designed to keep trade on these public markets free and open, and assure a service to the patron thereof at reasonable rates for yardage service and commission charges. Violations of this act should be dealt with promptly, and decisions rendered without delay. The committee recommends that all necessary steps for the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Packers and Stock Yards Act be taken by the governmental authorities vested with the responsibility of protecting the interests of the producers on these public markets."

The Live Stock Advisory Committee is composed of the following: Charles A. Ewing, president of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, Decatur, Ill., chairman; H. L. Kokernot, president of the Texas Live Stock Marketing Association, San Antonio, Texas; Harry G. Beale, Columbus, Ohio; R. C. Gunn, member of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, Buckingham, Iowa; William W. Woods, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago, Ill.; E. F. Forbes, president of the Western Cattle Marketing Association, Marysville, Cal.; and F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Forbes and Mr. Marshall did not attend the meeting.

* * *

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The recommendations for a committee of fifty on swine-production policy, and a similar committee for cattle and sheep, will be received with mixed feelings by the industry. Such committees, meeting twice a year, would no doubt serve a useful purpose as providing a means for a helpful exchange of views between these different groups. Any recommendations they might make as to production, however, could not be so scientifically prepared as the "Outlook Report" issued each year by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Federal Farm Board also is equipped to study trends and conditions. This is a good time to decrease, rather than increase, the number of committees and commissions.

The recommendation on market classes and grades appears harmless. If it is meant to suggest that the industry consider the *existing* grades established by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and recommend any desired changes, that is one thing. If it is the plan to try to set up "trade standards," without securing the official stamp of approval of the government, that is quite another. With the markets all over the country now being quoted in accordance with the *established* grades, and with the government grading and stamping of beef conforming to those grades, there is no room for another standard. The stockmen of the country will do well to stick by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in this matter, urging such revision of grades as may be necessary from time to time.

The recommendation on open markets is timely. The reference to reasonable rates for yardage service and commission charges is in line with the thought of all live-stock organizations. Service charges must be reduced, and trading on the markets must be left unhampered by artificial restraint.]

## ATTITUDE OF FARM BODIES ON CURRENT PROBLEMS

### National Grange

THIRTY-TWO STATES WERE REPRESENTED AT the sixty-fifth annual convention of the National Grange, held at Madison, Wisconsin, November 11-20, 1931. Every vital matter affecting the rural life of the nation was thoroughly debated. The following principles and policies were adopted:

*Tariff.*—American market for American farmer; export debenture plan; reasonable rates on commodities that farmer must buy; "tariff for all or tariff for none."

*Taxation.*—Increase in estate tax; no reduction in federal income tax, but return to states of substantial portion of corporation income tax; limited tax on luxuries; adoption of state income tax by all states; no general sales tax.

*Land Policy.*—Better administration of remaining public lands, through reforestation or otherwise; broadening of forestry laws to permit purchase of submarginal agricultural lands for either forest purposes, recreational uses, or game preserves; opposition to new irrigation or reclamation projects.

*Rural Credits.*—Increase in capital stock of federal land banks; appropriation to enable farmers in distress to meet interest demands and prevent foreclosures.

*Co-operation.*—Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Act; development of co-operative marketing agencies, and federal aid in financing small co-operative groups.

*Grading.*—Uniform federal and state grading of all farm products.

*Waterways.*—Vigorous development of internal waterways; early construction of Great-Lakes-to-Atlantic-Ocean canal.

*Railroads.*—Consolidation.

*Muscle Shoals.*—Operation as federal experiment station, to develop data on cost of generating and distributing electricity.

Louis J. Taber, of Columbus, Ohio, was re-elected master for another two-year term.

* * *

### National Farmers' Union

At its meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, November 17-19, this organization favored these measures:

*Agricultural Marketing Act.*—Amendment to license dealers in agricultural products entering interstate commerce,

each dealer to "pay grower's portion of his crop that will be consumed at home;" "immediate and searching" investigation by Congress into activities of Federal Farm Board and all its subsidiaries.

*Tariff.*—Tariff that will prohibit importation of agricultural products coming into competition with products raised in United States; reduction of industrial schedules to those of Fordney-McCumber Act.

*Taxation.*—Substantial increase in federal income tax; passage by states of state income-tax laws, to replace property tax; graduated land tax.

*Yardage Fees.*—Reduction of "exorbitant" stock-yard rates.

*Muscle Shoals.*—Operation by government.

*Railroads.*—Free transportation of clothing and food into drought-stricken areas.

*Rural Credits.*—Regulation by Congress of value of money; refinancing by government of farm mortgage indebtedness at 1½ per cent interest on amortization plan.

A resolution demanding farm-relief legislation from Congress, and, if this were not enacted, urging that members go on a buying and selling strike, was voted down.

John A. Simpson, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was re-elected president, and E. E. Kennedy, of Kankakee, Illinois, was named secretary.

* * *

**National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation**

The National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, at its fifteenth annual session in St. Louis on November 10-12, passed a resolution calling for amendment of the Agricultural Marketing Act to make adequate provision for surplus losses. If this cannot be done, then the federation favored repeal of so much of the act as authorizes creation and operation of stabilization corporations.

The Federal Farm Bard was commended for its assistance to the dairy farmers.

Harry Hartke, of Covington, Kentucky, was re-elected president, and Charles W. Holman, of Washington, D. C., secretary.

## NEW CREDIT CORPORATION ON PACIFIC COAST

THE FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER SAW THE FORMATION of the Tri-State Live Stock Credit Corporation, with headquarters at San Francisco. This new organization, sponsored by the Western Cattle Marketing Association, is another link in the system of producer-owned finance corporations established by the National Live Stock Marketing Association under the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act. Other corporations organized under this plan are the Producers' Live Stock Credit Corporation of Denver, the National Finance Credit Corporation of Texas (Fort Worth), and the Wasatch Live Stock Loan Company of Salt Lake City.

The corporation (which more properly might have been named the "Four-State," in that it serves the states of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona where the Marketing Association is operating) is capitalized at $500,000, of which half has been subscribed by twenty-seven cattlemen on the Pacific coast. The other half, under the terms of the act, will be supplied by the Federal Farm Board. This gives the institution a borrowing capacity of $2,500,000 from the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank at Berkeley. The rate of interest will be 2 per cent above the rediscount rate of the Berkeley bank, which at present is 4½ per cent. Loans will be limited to members of the Western Cattle Marketing Association or of other co-operative agencies affiliated with the National Association.

President of the new corporation is J. Sheldon Potter, of San Francisco. E. F. Forbes, of Marysville, California, president of the Western Cattle Marketing Association and the California Cattlemen's Association, will be general manager, and Earl D. Schlaman, of San Francisco, who has resigned as secretary of the Cattlemen's Association, will be secretary.

## CALIFORNIA WOOL-GROWERS MEET

AT THE FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the California Wool Growers' Association in San Francisco, November 5 and 6, the lamb-advertising campaign of the National Wool Growers' Association and the work done by the National Live Stock and Meat Board in promoting the consumption of meat were heartily commended. The Secretary of Agriculture was urged to give holders of national-forest grazing permits credit for 1932 of at least one-half of the fees paid in 1931, and to adjust the future scale of fees in accordance with changed conditions and values. Request was made that a specialist be sent to Australia to study methods employed there for the eradication of St. John's wort. The work of the Biological Survey in controlling predatory animals and injurious rodents was indorsed, and demand was made that an appropriation for carrying out the ten-year program be included in the federal budget. Modification of the Consent Decree to give packers the right to handle all food products and to engage in the retailing of meats was favored.

W. Hugh Baber, of Chico, was elected president; Douglas H. Prior, of Blocksburg, vice-president; and W. P. Wing, of San Francisco, secretary.

## CREEP-FEEDING CALVES IN COLORADO

RESULTS OF CREEP-FEEDING TESTS CARRIED ON during the past summer with a bunch of Hereford calves were demonstrated at the ranch of F. F. Cuykendall & Son, near Roggen, northeastern Colorado, on November 4, before a large crowd of stockmen. The calves, forty-seven in number, were born early this spring (average birth date, April 10) and were fed increasing rations of from 1.1 to 4.83 pounds of grain (shelled corn, ground wheat, barley, and oats), dried beet-pulp, and cottonseed from June 10 to October 10, while nursing their mothers and running on pasture. Weaned on the latter date, they were put in dry-lot, and from October 10 to November 4 were fed daily rations of 9.5 pounds of the same feeds, supplemented with hay. Cost of feed per calf for the first period was $2.17½, and for the second period $1.76, or a total of $3.93½. Average weight on October 10 was 418 pounds, and on November 3, 475 pounds. The calves are to be fed for the mid-winter market, and complete feed and cost records will be kept for distribution among those interested.

Creep-feeding of calves, while a new practice in eastern Colorado, is gaining in popularity with the increase in the amount of home-grown feeds. Its object is the production of "quicker beef at a lower cost." The Cuykendall test is being conducted in co-operation with the Extension Service of the Colorado Agricultural College, under the direction of Harry H. Simpson, county agent.

At the field day on the ranch, feeding methods were explained by Louis H. Rochford, of the Extension Service, and Frank F. and John Cuykendall—father and son. Professor George E. Morton, head of the Animal Husbandry Department of the college, spoke on the results obtained from the feeding of wheat to live stock. The work of the American

National Live Stock Association was discussed by Secretary F. E. Mollin. A cattle-grading demonstration by J. K. Wallace, marketing specialist of the Department of Agriculture, and a contest in guessing the weight of the calves and the feed consumed, were other features of the program. At noon a barbecue dinner was served by the Ladies' Aid Society of Roggen, the beef being donated by John E. Painter, well-known Hereford breeder of the neighborhood, who acted as chairman of the meeting.

## MONTANA GRAZING ASSOCIATION A SUCCESS

EFFORTS AT SYSTEMATIC RANGE CONTROL BY the Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Co-operative Grazing Association in Montana seem to be meeting with success. Having set as its goal, in 1929 when the association was formed, 4,000 cow units on the 108,000 acres of public-domain land controlled by its members, it now reports that grazing conditions this season, in spite of the drought, have been 20 per cent above the average for the range country. In addition, the Grazing Association during the past year has undertaken such activities for its members as the purchase of purebred bulls in car-lots, eradication of prairie-dog villages, and development of water-holes.

## WYOMING'S ANTI-MARGARINE LAW

LIKE MANY OTHER STATES, WYOMING AT THE last session of its Legislature had a law put on its statute-books designed to assist the dairy industry. The sale of yellow oleomargarine, whether naturally or artificially colored, was prohibited outright, and a tax of 10 cents a pound was imposed on white margarine containing less than 20 per cent of animal fat.

Now we are informed by Russell Thorp, secretary of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, that the effect of this law has been that manufacturers have increased the animal-fat content of their product to more than 25 per cent, and have thus made it impossible for the state to collect the tax.

It should be the aim of the beef interests to have similar laws, or amendments to existing laws, enacted in other states. Instead of attempting to solve the problem by taxing the oleomargarine industry out of existence, payment of the tax should be made contingent upon the percentage of animal fat contained.

## EXTENSION OF NATIONAL PARKS

PROTESTING IN EMPHATIC TERMS AGAINST THE threatened enlargement of the Rocky Mountain National Park through the addition of approximately 70,000 acres of contiguous grazing, mineral, and timber lands, the Board of County Commissioners of Grand County, Colorado, has adopted a resolution, supported by a numerously signed petition of property-owners, setting forth the objections to such a step.

While the grazing capacity of these areas relatively is not large, it is pointed out that most of them are covered by national-forest preferences. The permittees, it is stated, throughout a long period of years have invested heavily in the development of ranch properties and herds which are dependent upon this land for summer range. To such ranchmen, as well as to others interested in the mining, lumbering, and resort business of the region, the removal of the lands would spell economic ruin.

This whole subject of extending the boundaries of national parks at the expense of citizens who have built up their livelihood in dependence upon adjacent lands is one of vast importance to the West. It has previously been the subject of action by the American National Live Stock Association, and will be brought before the convention again at San Antonio in January.

## TUBERCULIN-TESTING OF RANGE CATTLE

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE ACQUIRED BY THE subject of testing range herds for tuberculosis, through the threatened exclusion from accredited territory in the Corn Belt of untested stocker and feeder cattle, a committee has been appointed by the American National Live Stock Association to study the problem and to report its conclusions to the convention at San Antonio in January, where an effort will be made to map out a course that can have the support of the whole western country.

The committee has the following membership: J. Elmer Brock, president of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, chairman; R. H. Royall, president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association; C. W. Peterson, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association; E. F. Forbes, president of the California Cattlemen's Association; E. A. Phillips, secretary of the Montana Stock Growers' Association; A. A. Smith, member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, for Colorado; and Dolph Briscoe, first vice-president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association.

At this writing it is not known what was done at the meeting of the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association in Chicago early in December. From its previous record it is clear, however, that this organization favors outright prohibition of the movement of untested cattle into clean areas, and is bringing pressure to bear upon the Bureau of Animal Industry to tighten the shipping regulations to that effect. While some western stockmen have expressed their willingness to accept a compromise arrangement by which only a certain percentage of range beef cattle would be tested—enough to furnish definite proof of their virtual freedom from tuberculosis—a large number feel that even this would be a needless expense which they under present circumstances can ill afford. A delegation, headed by members of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, went to Chicago to present this point of view to the conference. The conference was also attended by Secretary F. E. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association.

## COTTON CURTAILMENT PLAN MAKING HEADWAY

UNIFORM LEGISLATION THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH that would reduce cotton-planting 50 per cent in 1932 and 1933 was recommended in a resolution adopted at a cotton-control conference held in Jackson, Mississippi, last month. Ten of the eleven cotton-raising states represented favored the resolution. The North Carolina delegation abstained from voting.

The Texas program calling for acreage restriction has already been adhered to by the legislatures of South Carolina, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Louisiana has enacted a "holiday" measure, providing for complete cessation from planting next year, which may have to be replaced by the proposed curtailment plan. Governors of the states which have taken no action were urged to convene their lawmaking bodies to enact the necessary legislation.

## RE-WEIGH OR YARDAGE CHARGES

SINCE THE TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT RAISED AT Denver relative to the provision in Secretary Hyde's order on yardage rates imposing a half-yardage charge on speculators (the same provision likewise applying in the recent order covering St. Joseph), it has been made to appear that these markets were the first to sustain such charges, when, as a matter of fact, many markets in the country have voluntarily initiated them.

In response to inquiries on the subject, we append hereto a list of the principal markets, showing that, prior to the issuance of the secretary's orders, practically all had re-weigh charges, but indicating by an asterisk (*) those charges which apply in much the same fashion as proposed at Denver and St. Joseph. The term "plants" or "planted" generally refers to live stock bought by a speculator and placed for sale with the same, or more often another, commission firm. We have given the charge roughly as a fractional part of the original yardage charge, instead of publishing the full yardage charge and the re-weigh charge. Yardage charges are applicable to traders at the following markets:

**Baltimore*—Re-weigh charge for all certified weighings, amounting to one-fourth to one-third of regular yardage charge.

**Chicago*—Re-weigh charge on live stock weighed second and successive time, amounting to one-third to one-half of regular yardage charge.

*Cincinnati*—Five cents per head on hogs for each time taken to sales division.

**Cleveland*—Re-weigh charge of about one-third of regular yardage charge.

*Denver*—Full yardage charge on live stock resold through commission firms. (In effect prior to order in Docket No. 301.)

*Fort Worth*—One-half of regular yardage charge on live stock "planted" and resold.

*Kansas City*—One-half of regular yardage charge on "plants."

*Los Angeles*—One-half of regular yardage charge on each second and successive weighing, except on live stock going to country.

*National Stock Yards (East St. Louis)*—One-half of regular charge on live stock "planted" and resold in commission division.

*Oklahoma City*—One-half of regular yardage charge on live stock "planted" and resold in commission division.

*Omaha*—Re-weigh charge on live stock re-weighed, except on live stock going to country, amounting to about one-third of regular yardage charge.

**Pittsburg*—Additional charge for each certified weighing, amounting to about one-third of regular yardage charge.

**San Antonio*—Resale charge of about one-half of regular yardage charge.

*Sioux City*—One-half of regular yardage charge on "plants."

*Sioux Falls*—One-half of regular yardage charge on "plants," except on stockers and feeders going to country.

*St. Joseph*—One-half of regular charge on live stock resold in commission division. (In effect prior to order in Docket No. 298.)

*St. Paul*—Regular yardage charge on all "plants" or resales in commission division.

## DENVER STOCK-YARD CASE IN COURT

ON DECEMBER 1 THE CASE OF THE DENVER Union Stock Yards Company against the Secretary of Agriculture for invalidation of his recent order lowering service rates at the stock-yards went to trial at Denver before a special court of three federal judges.

The suit of the Stock Yards Company is predicated upon the contention that the secretary exceeded his powers under the Packers and Stock Yards Act of 1921 when he proceeded to evaluate the property of the yards as a basis upon which to establish charges for yard service. A temporary injunction against the secretary is now in effect, which it is sought to make permanent. In view of the importance of the case, it is considered likely that, whichever side wins, an appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court.

## SOME AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

THE RELEASE BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS giving the number of sheep in the United States on April 1, 1930 (mentioned elsewhere in this number), contains a lot of other interesting information, gathered by the census-takers, throwing light upon the economic condition of our farmers. Some of these data are set forth below, with comparisons from the two previous censuses:

| *No. and Value of Farms—* | 1930 | 1925 | 1920 |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. farms | 6,288,648 | 6,371,640 | 6,448,343 |
| Value of property | $57,246,244,082 | $57,017,740,040 | $77,923,651,599 |
| *Mortgage Debt—* | | | |
| Operated by owners | 3,568,394 | 3,868,332 | 3,925,090 |
| No. mortgaged | 1,496,839 | 1,395,026 | 1,461,306 |
| Operated by full owners | 2,911,644 | 3,313,490 | 3,366,510 |
| No. mortgaged | 1,145,737 | 1,128,207 | 1,193,047 |
| Acres | 168,760,755 | 172,182,218 | ........ |
| Value of land & buildings | $10,306,732,037 | $10,790,244,351 | $13,775,500,013 |
| Amount of mortgages | $ 4,080,185,438 | $ 4,517,258,689 | $ 4,003,767,192 |
| Ratio to value (%) | 39.6 | 41.9 | 29.1 |
| *Farm Facilities—* | | | |
| No. automobiles | 4,134,685 | ........ | 2,146,362 |
| No. motor trucks | 900,385 | ........ | 139,169 |
| No. tractors | 920,395 | 505,933 | 246,083 |
| No. telephones | 2,139,194 | ........ | 2,498,493 |
| Lighted by electricity | 841,310 | ........ | 452,620 |
| *Farm Expenditures—* | 1929 | 1924 | 1919 |
| Feed | $ 919,339,407 | $ 750,444,560 | $ 1,097,224,648 |
| Fertilizer | $ 271,065,703 | $ 230,528,446 | $ 326,399,520 |
| Labor | $ 955,510,313 | $ 864,982,384 | $ 1,098,712,517 |
| *Co-operative Marketing—* | | | |
| Products sold | $ 892,481,491 | $ 858,284,387 | $ 721,983,639 |
| Supplies purchased | $ 125,048,597 | $ 75,971,169 | $ 84,615,669 |

## NOVEMBER CROP REPORT

NO GREAT CHANGE OCCURRED IN THE GOVERNment's crop estimate for November, as compared with the report for the previous month. Corn showed a loss of 29,000,000 bushels, and now stands at 2,674,000,000 bushels. This is 580,000,000 bushels more than were harvested in 1930, but falls 87,000,000 bushels short of the 1925-29 average.

Potatoes added 7,000,000 bushels to the prospective crop announced for October, bringing the total up to 382,000,000 bushels, against 343,000,000 last year. Sugar-beets gained 46,000 tons during the month, leaving the figure at 7,620,000 tons, compared with a production of 9,175,000 tons in 1930.

The largest gain was made by cotton. On November 1 the outlook was for a harvest of 16,903,000 bales, which is 619,000 bales in excess of the October forecast and 2,971,000 bales more than were produced last season.

Aside from these changes, the table printed in the November PRODUCER remains practically unaltered and may be regarded as final.

Canada's wheat crop is now officially estimated at 298,000,000 bushels. Last year 397,000,000 bushels were harvested. France has a yield of 183,500,000 bushels of wheat, against 157,250,000 bushels in 1930. Total production of this grain in thirty-eight countries has been 3,075,416,000 bushels, which figures at 96 per cent of last year's production.

## INSURANCE

WHEN YOU ARE ILL, DO YOU LET YOUR INSURance lapse? Not on your life! The live-stock industry right now is sick; but, just as you need insurance more than ever when attacked by illness, so the industry today demands assurance that freight rates will not be advanced and that tariffs will not be lowered.

The American National Live Stock Association is the best insurance you have in these matters. It has protected your interests by seeing that live stock was exempted from any advance in the recent effort of the railroads to increase all freight rates 15 per cent. It protected your interests when an attempt was made to lower the tariff on cattle. The United States Tariff Commission recently announced that the application for lower rates had been withdrawn.

Hundreds of stockmen have not paid their 1931 dues. The work has been done, the results obtained, but many of you have not paid for it. Aren't you willing to do your share, help pay Mr. Blaine for the fine service he has rendered, and maintain the efficiency of the association that is at all times active and alert in your behalf?

## CAREY HEADS REREFORD BREEDERS

CHARLES D. CAREY, OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING, has added another scalp to his belt. At a recent meeting of the stockholders of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association in Kansas City he was elected president of that organization for the coming term. He is already chairman of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and first vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association.

R. J. Kinzer, for many years secretary of the Hereford Association, was re-elected to that position. Mr. Kinzer reported that 98,928 certificates of registration had been issued during the past year, and 52,630 transferred.

## KLEBERG GOES TO CONGRESS

THE ELECTION OF RICHARD M. KLEBERG, OF Corpus Christi, as representative in Congress from the fourteenth district of Texas, not only gave recognition to a distinguished stockman and member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, but derived added significance from the fact that it assured Democratic organization of the House.

Mr. Kleberg, as part owner of the famous King Ranch, in the Gulf country, is known throughout the West as a breeder of purebred cattle. He has developed the distinctive "Santa Gertrudis" type—three-eighths Brahma and five-eighths Shorthorn—described in the June, 1931, PRODUCER.

## RUSSIA AS MEAT-EXPORTER

N. TOURNEUR, WRITING IN THE "ESTATE MAGAzine" (London) for September, says, according to a recent release by the United States Department of Agriculture:

"Within the next few years the Soviet Republic, as promoters of a colossal enterprise in meat production, will be entering the world's markets, with every facility for distributing her exports to Europe and Asia direct. In a year or two there will be cheap meat in abundance; for the greatest pastoral nation of the Old World is busily organizing and setting in train her vast resources for raising, in especial, sheep, though the Soviet aims at the export of beef as well as mutton and lamb.

"The steppes or plains of the Workers' Republic, reaching from Hungary and Poland to Mongolia, admit of vast possibilities; given that the railroad system is pulled together by the Americans engaged on the job. Even with the haphazard methods of Tzarist days, there were individual herds of more than half a million sheep each."

[The number of sheep in European and Asiatic Russia combined in 1930 was given as a round 100,000,000, or nearly as many as in Australia. Cattle numbered 54,000,000.—ED.]

## HEADQUARTERS AT SAN ANTONIO

HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN National Live Stock Association during the convention in San Antonio, Texas, January 27-29, 1932, will be at THE GUNTER. This thoroughly modern hotel is fully equipped for conventions of this nature, its facilities including a spacious conference hall and ample dining-room facilities.

THE GUNTER
"A Baker Hotel"
San Antonio, Texas—700 Rooms

Room rates are as follows: Single rooms, $2.50, $3, $3.50, $4, and $5—the majority carrying the $2.50 or $3 rate; double rooms, $4, $4.50, $5, $6, $7, and $8. A few twin-bed rooms can be had at the $4 rate, and either double-bed or twin-bed equipment can be furnished with the $4.50 and $5 rooms. The bulk of the double rooms carry the $5 rate.

*Make your reservations early, as San Antonio in January is crowded with winter visitors; and be sure to specify the price you want to pay for your room.*

## THE CALENDAR

**January 11-13, 1932—Annual Convention of National Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.**
**January 14, 1932—Annual Convention of Utah Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.**
**January 16-23, 1932—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.**
**January 18-19, 1932—Annual Convention of Oregon Wool Growers' Association, Pendleton, Ore.**
**January 21-22, 1932—Annual Convention of Washington Wool Growers' Association, Yakima, Wash.**
**January 25-26, 1932—Annual Convention of Montana Wool Growers' Association, Bozeman, Mont.**
**January 27-29, 1932—Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, San Antonio, Tex.**
**February 4-5, 1932—Annual Convention of New Mexico Wool Growers' Association, Albuquerque, N. M.**
**February 16-17, 1932—Annual Convention of Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Tucson, Ariz.**
**February 29-March 2, 1932—Fat Stock Show, San Angelo, Tex.**
**March 5-12, 1932—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.**
**March 15-17, 1932—Annual Convention of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, El Paso, Tex.**

# THE PRODUCER

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Volume XIII DECEMBER, 1931 Number 7

## CALL FOR CONVENTION

DENVER, COLO., December 1, 1931.

*To Members of the American National Live Stock Association, Affiliated Organizations, and Stockmen Generally:*

Call is hereby issued for the Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, January 27 to 29, 1932.

* * *

The live-stock industry during the past year has had to draw on its reserves of both cash and fortitude. A strained credit situation has seriously restricted the demand for feeder animals, and prices have dropped to ruinously low levels. Heavy supplies of both pork and lamb also have exerted a bearish influence. In spite of comparatively light shipments, the market on cattle has been forced down in unison with that on hogs and sheep.

Aside from the markets, no subject has occupied the attention of the industry to the extent of railroad matters. No sooner had the long-awaited decision in Docket No. 17000 been announced than the railroads petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission for a flat rate increase of 15 per cent, to meet their financial emergency. The industry put up a strong defense, and was successful in preventing any advance on live stock. Since the ruling in this case, however, is unsatisfactory to many districts, particularly in view of the tremendous change in economic conditions, it seems necessary to begin a fight for a reduction in rates that will bring them nearer to a pre-war basis. Commodity prices generally are now much below such a basis. This whole subject will be gone into thoroughly, as well as many related traffic questions.

The long fight of this Association for lower commission, yardage, and feed charges at public markets met with some success in 1931. Commission rates at Sioux City were lowered to about the basis established two years ago at Omaha. Yardage rates were reduced at both Denver and St. Joseph, but the yard companies, with no regard for the condition of the industry, are fighting in court to maintain war levels as long as possible. We should heartily commend Secretary Hyde for the progress thus far made by the Packers and Stock Yards Administration, and urge that the additional work now under way be expedited, and that he stand fast against the strong pressure being exerted by the stock-yard interests to break down the whole program. Recognizing that final adjustment of yardage and commission rates will take many months, the entire industry should unite in a demand that charges at all markets be immediately lowered to a reasonable basis.

The United States Live Stock Sanitary Association has for several years urged the Bureau of Animal Industry to issue a regulation prohibiting the movement of feeder cattle into accredited areas unless such cattle likewise come from accredited territory or have been subjected to the tuberculin test. We should reiterate our opposition to any such regulation, and also formulate a program for the handling of feeder cattle from the range states that will command the support of the entire West. It has been proposed that testing of western herds be confined to dairy districts, and that proof of the natural freedom from disease of strictly range herds be adduced from packing-house records. This will be one of the most important matters before the convention, and is worthy of the utmost consideration.

There is a diversity of opinion as to the desirability of advertising beef products under present conditions. One group urges that something be done to meet the advertising of other products; another doubts the wisdom of such action while consumers' buying power is at low ebb. Mr. Pollock, manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, will be

on hand to explain the program of that body for the year 1932. While the 25-cent assessment is now being collected at several markets, a recent letter from Mr. Pollock indicates that it is not at all certain that any special beef work, cutting demonstrations, etc., can be financed out of this fund in the near future. No doubt it would be difficult again to raise a special fund for this purpose. Paradoxically, the industry seems willing to put up such funds only when prices are at a high level and advertising is the least needed. The whole matter should be threshed out and a definite policy formulated.

Good cattle have been at a premium recently only because of a very short supply of kinds eligible to near top prices. During much of the past season, however, well-finished animals were a drug on the market, while inferior qualities were in strong demand. This is a severe indictment of the present distributive system. There are thousands of stores in our cities, operating on a cash-and-carry basis, which are now featuring price and not quality. Often during recent months they have failed to include any kind of beef in their week-end specials, pointing to the relatively high price of choice cuts as an excuse. The only solution would seem to be a uniform grading and stamping system that will protect producer and consumer alike, and will help create a demand for the better grades of beef, to produce which the industry has for years been improving the quality of its herds. Serious consideration should be given to the introduction in Congress of a grading bill with this end in view. Many other organizations are ready to support such legislation.

The question of oleomargarine legislation has been well to the front during the past year. The much-discussed Brigham bill, while unfortunately placing a tax on yellow margarine regardless of its animal-fat content, is of substantial benefit to both the dairy and the beef-cattle industries through the tax placed on yellow butter substitutes made of vegetable oils. Prior to the passage of the Brigham bill these substitutes were fast eliminating the use of oleo oils in the manufacture of margarine. A bitter fight has been waged in many states over bills placing a heavy tax on all oleomargarine. In some states—notably Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado—bills were passed that exempted product containing a certain percentage of animal fat from paying the prescribed tax. This Association took the initiative in forming a National Oils and Fats Committee, with two members from each of the most prominent farm, dairy, cotton-oil, and live-stock organizations. No final solution of the problem can be reached until adequate tariff protection is secured through granting of the promised independence to the Philippine Islands, without any favored tariff status. We should go on record as to our stand on this matter.

While it seems unlikely that there will be any general tariff legislation at the present session of Congress, there is continued agitation by South American interests in favor of modifying our embargo against importation of meats and live stock from disease-infested countries, to the extent of permitting imports *from such portions of these countries as are free from foot-and-mouth disease.* We should in no uncertain manner express our convictions as to experimenting along that line.

The passage of the Agricultural Marketing Act, two and a half years ago, was the signal for an immediate combination of forces antagonistic to the co-operative principle. A continuous campaign, well financed, of misleading propaganda has been aimed at the act ever since. Encouraged by the dissatisfaction with low prices for all agricultural products, a strong effort will be made at the present session of Congress either to repeal the act or to destroy its usefulness through crippling amendments. While perhaps not the most important feature of the act under ordinary conditions, the credit structure that has been set up has proved of inestimable benefit to the live-stock industry during a time of great financial stress. Our position relative to amending the act should be clearly stated.

From many quarters come complaints as to withdrawals of large areas from public lands and national forests in order to increase the size of national parks, Indian reservations, etc. The 640-Acre Grazing Homestead Act is a constant source of trouble, many entries under it being for the sole purpose of forcing the stockmen using the land to buy out the claim. The Secretary of the Interior is being urged to establish a grazing district in Colorado similar to those already established in California and Montana. Perhaps legislation could be secured creating such districts on the application of a specified number of stockmen, or of all stockmen in a specified area.

There is at present considerable demand for a lower scale of grazing fees on national forests. This demand is likely to gather force by the time present permits will expire, in 1934. Negotiations looking toward such an adjustment would take considerable time, and should be started soon.

Attacks on the Biological Survey for its methods of dealing with predatory animals and forage-destroying rodents have lately been growing in number and intensity. These attacks for the most part emanate from well-meaning but misguided conservationists in the East who have no adequate understanding of the problems of the range. There is danger, however, that the views held by this group,

strong in both number and influence, may have a harmful effect upon our interests, should the matter come before Congress. Any unfavorable move should, if possible, be forestalled. The Biological Survey has been an invaluable ally of the western breeder of live stock. It should be left unhampered in the pursuance of its beneficial work, which is not aiming at the destruction of our wild life, but has for its purpose solely the protection of a vital national industry. Unequivocal action should be taken by the Association in giving the bureau the generous support to which it is entitled.

* * *

These and many other problems are of concern to every stockman. No matter how favored your individual financial position may be, how smoothly your own ship may ride the troubled seas, you cannot escape the backwash that comes from an industry floundering in distress.

Many will say that they cannot afford the expense of going to the convention. *You cannot afford not to go.* These matters are all in the crucible of time. By united effort, the live-stock interests can assure themselves of reasonable success in the final outcome. The day of individualism in any line of business is gone. Powerful combines are the rule. Equip your organization so that it can hold its own.

Hotel arrangements are announced elsewhere in this issue. The full program, with railroad rates, will be published in the January number.

HENRY G. BOICE,
*President.*

F. E. MOLLIN,
*Secretary.*

## A NEW DEAL IN FINANCE

THE FLOOD OF CRITICISM DIRECTED AT the Federal Farm Board, ever since the enactment of the Agricultural Marketing Act, by the middlemen who have been accustomed to handling our agricultural commodities, and the spectacular operations of the Grain and Cotton Stabilization Corporations, have tended to obscure from the public view one of the most important developments under the act—an adequate system of agricultural finance.

Stabilizing the flow of commodities to market has been the dream of agriculture for years. There is no substitute for co-operative action in bringing this about. But co-operative action without adequate finance is futile.

Until the passage of the Agricultural Marketing Act, the federal intermediate credit banks had failed to function efficiently in meeting the demand for agricultural credit. This was largely due to the fact that the producers were not well organized. Lacking proper organizations, it was impracticable for them to raise the capital necessary for the establishment of credit corporations through which paper could be discounted to the intermediate credit banks. Here and there private credit corporations availed themselves of the facilities offered, and were a substantial help in the communities served; but in many sections of the country the commercial banks were the main sources of credit.

The development of new credit corporations to finance the live-stock industry has been slow, but sound. The old National Producers' Credit Corporation at St. Louis has been enlarged to serve a broader field; a private corporation at Salt Lake City has been taken over, and its capital greatly augmented; the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association and the Texas Live Stock Marketing Association each set up credit corporations a year ago, and they have done yeoman service during a critical period; the Tri-State Credit Corporation at San Francisco, recently formed, is now in active operation; preliminary steps are being taken to establish a similar agency in Oklahoma.

It is a source of satisfaction to know that in many instances substantial assistance has been received from private bankers in setting up these new agencies. Especially is this true in regions where precarious banking conditions have revealed urgent need for additional credit, not only to prevent unnecessary liquidation of live stock, but also in some instances to save the banks themselves by taking up live-stock paper, temporarily frozen on their hands. In like fashion, southern bankers co-operated with the Federal Farm Board this fall in working out plans to market the huge cotton crop, and more recently middle-western bankers have matched the funds advanced to form the National Corn Credit Corporation.

This added credit came none too soon. With the growing number of bank failures in the Corn Belt imposing a policy of rigid conservatism on many sound banks, feeders found it exceedingly difficult to finance operations. Much live stock that, under ordinary conditions, would have sojourned in the feed-yards for a few months has gone direct to the packer. Admittedly the facilities are not yet adequate to the needs of the industry. It will require much further organizing and concentration of capital to serve all sections of the country.

No matter how well financed your own outfit may be, no matter what your opinion of some of the policies and practices of the Federal Farm Board, THE PRODUCER believes that every live-stock producer is interested, directly or indirectly, in perfecting this credit machinery—not to the point where it will encourage overproduction, but in order that feeders may be properly financed at all times, and the buying power of the markets thus sustained, and in the hope that it will eventually lead to real stabilization in the marketing of your product.

## SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE

NO SATISFACTORY WAY HAVING BEEN found to handle the accumulated surpluses of various agricultural commodities — notably wheat and cotton — increasing attention is being given to methods of controlling production. These range from the suggestion of the Federal Farm Board that every third row of cotton be plowed under, to that of the Dairy Advisory Committee that every farmer eliminate at least one cow in every ten. Cotton-growing states have called many special sessions of their legislatures to consider methods of control for the 1932 crop. In wheat-growing states, drought and low prices—probably the only sure control agencies—seem to have solved the problem, and the 1932 acreage will be considerably under that of 1931.

The latest contribution to the subject is found in the annual address of Harry Hartke, president of the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, delivered at St. Louis on November 10. While approving the above-mentioned recommendation of the Dairy Advisory Committee, six of whose seven members are directors of the federation, when it comes to consideration of the general agricultural situation Mr. Hartke has this to say in regard to surplus control:

> To me it seems that for the producer of a commodity which is essential to human life to control the supply and determine when there are enough foodstuffs for the consumer would at least be very unfortunate, if not a very vicious situation, followed by dire consequences.

What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander. If agriculture generally should not make any effort at intelligent control of production, but instead "let nature take its course," that ought to be good counsel likewise for the members of Mr. Hartke's federation. If the advice of the Dairy Advisory Committee was followed, and some 2,000,000 boarder cows were sent to market in short order, it would be demoralizing to the entire cattle industry, as well as extremely hard on the jaws of the consuming public. Fortunately for everybody, the advice will not be universally heeded, most dairy farmers figuring they can outsmart their neighbors and keep all their cows, in order to receive the full benefit from the price upturn that will follow reduction of the other fellows' herds.

## THE TARIFF ON CATTLE

ON NOVEMBER 5 THE UNITED STATES Tariff Commission announced that the application of the Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Live Stock Exchange for a decrease in the tariff on cattle had been withdrawn. The American National Live Stock Association had taken the lead in filing protests against any action being taken on this application. It was supported by farm and live-stock organizations all over the country, as well as by United States senators and representatives, governors of many states, and other prominent men. In fact, no proposed change in the duty on any single item considered by the commission has aroused so much opposition as this request for a decrease on cattle

The domestic producer has demonstrated his ability to turn out all the beef that the demand will absorb, and at prices within the reach of all employed persons—even those at the bottom of the wage scale.

Encouragement of greater imports under present conditions, with our home producers fighting for their very existence, naturally was an unpopular move. THE PRODUCER urges the Lancaster Exchange to look to the West for its cattle supply. Feeders of every description are now available on the Chicago market at prices which mean serious losses to the western breeder, but which should show substantial profits to the Pennsylvania feeder. A little co-operation will prove beneficial to all concerned.

## THE SHEEP CENSUS

SHEEP ON FARMS AND RANCHES OF THE United States on April 1, 1930, numbered 56,985,626, according to a preliminary tabulation by the Bureau of the Census. This includes spring lambs. In 1925 the number counted was 35,590,159; in 1920, 35,033,516. As both the 1925 and 1920 censuses were taken on January 1, they did not include spring lambs.

Besides the live-stock censuses (now taken every five years), an annual estimate is issued by the Department of Agriculture as of January 1, using the census returns as a foundation. For January 1, 1930, the number of sheep was given as 48,913,000, later revised to 50,503,000. This is 8,073,000, or 6,483,000, less than the enumerators found three

months later. For January 1, 1931, the number announced (before the 1930 census figures were available) was 51,911,000. Evidently this, too, will need some upward adjustment before the 1932 guess is published.

All this is very confusing. In the census returns for cattle and swine, published in the August PRODUCER, animals born between January 1 and April 1 —the census date—had been excluded, in order to make the figures more comparable with those of previous censuses. Why could not the same method have been applied to sheep? Of what practical value is this sheep total to anybody, thus suspended in midair, with nothing whatever to which to relate it? If it is necessary, for reasons obscure to outsiders, constantly to shift the dates of our live-stock censuses, it would seem to devolve upon the experts at Washington, before giving out the results, to reduce these to a common basis. The questions that will now be asked are: How many lambs were born during the three-month period, and what was the slaughter? Before these are answered, the data are worthless to the average stockman.

Another thing this bewildered individual would like to know is why it should take seventeen and a half months to compile the figures. Even if it were possible to interpret them intelligently, if they are not to lose most of their significance as an index to production movement, up or down, it is essential that they be released with reasonable promptitude. Plenty of other material was gathered in by the census-takers which it would not have hurt much to sidetrack while giving attention to these more vital subjects.

The only safe deduction to be made from this government announcement is that it confirms the general impression that sheep numbers are, or were, expanding. How large had been the actual increase up to April 1, 1930, must be left to conjecture, as Mr. Poole would say.

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## BANK SERVICE CHARGES

MUCH COMPLAINT IS BEING MADE THAT the country is hoarding money which ought to be in circulation. Various factors have contributed to bring about the present situation, but none has had more influence in encouraging hoarding than the nation-wide collection by banks of a so-called "service" charge. This charge runs from 50 cents per month when the average balance is under $50, to $1 per month when the balance is less than $300. In some cases an additional charge of as much as 4 cents per check is made for each check in excess of one to each $10 in the average balance. Bankers have waxed eloquent over the heavy losses incurred in handling undesirable small accounts, and the less-moneyed people of the country, instead of submitting meekly to a service charge, have taken the bankers at their word and are doing their own banking.

A stockman who had been charged 50 cents the previous month, because his balance dropped under $50, had occasion soon after to go into the bank with checks totaling $150. The banker started to make out a deposit ticket. "Never mind," said the stockman. "As my account is such a nuisance, I can take care of that much money myself." Others, when funds are low, simply write a check for their balance and escape the service charge.

Whatever the merits or demerits of a service charge from the standpoint of the banker, no more inopportune time could have been found for putting it into effect. It has driven people away from the banks just when the banks needed every ounce of support, both moral and financial, that was in sight. Moreover, it seems hardly fair to assay these small accounts entirely on the basis of the average balance, without giving credit for the use of other, and perhaps more profitable, facilities which the bank has to offer and of which every customer has to avail himself from time to time. Every satisfied customer, be his average balance large or small, is also an avenue through which new business is directed to a bank.

Do you remember the good old days when banks advertised that checking accounts would be opened with a one-dollar deposit? What has happened once may happen again, and banks may discover that the good-will of the depositor with a small average balance is an asset worth enough to justify overlooking the size of this balance.

# THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

## BIXBY ON THE BUSINESS DEPRESSION

[Answering certain questions addressed to him by Charles L. Irvine, editor of *Western Cattle Markets and News*, the organ of the Western Cattle Marketing Association, San Francisco, Fred H. Bixby, of Long Beach, California, former president of the American National Live Stock Association, sets forth his views on the business outlook and the policy which, in his opinion, should be pursued by cattlemen in meeting the present situation. Mr. Bixby's letter, in substance, follows.]

LONG BEACH, CAL., November 16, 1931.

DEAR MR. IRVINE:

As you know, and as everybody knows, "times" are bad, and the question that is uppermost in the minds of all of us is: "When is business coming back to normal?" or, "When is business going to start to get better?" My opinion is that we shall see no great change or healthy growth in business until possibly the fall of 1933. I am speaking more particularly of the cattle business. My reasons for arriving at the above conclusion are as follows:

1. The cattle business is now at a very low ebb, and we are selling both feeder and fat cattle at cost of production, or even less.

2. The consumption of beef is falling off, and has been falling off for some time. Therefore our volume must decrease. The reason for this lack of consumption of our product is the unemployment situation, and the fact that many old, shelly dairy cows will have to be fattened and slaughtered, each dairy cow taking the place of a good beef cow. Also, in hard times there are always put on the market all kinds of substitutes, and this is especially so as far as meat and meat-food products are concerned. There is no surplus of beef cattle in the United States, but the result is exactly the same as if there were. When the consumption of any commodity falls off approximately 50 per cent, it creates a situation similar to that of a surplus. The unemployment problem has not been solved, and will not be solved in the immediate future. Possibly it will be a year or more before conditions will change and take care of this situation. The dairy problem can be solved in only one way, and that is by the slaughtering of 50 per cent of the dairy cattle in the United States. This must be done within the next eighteen months.

3. The presidential election takes place in November, 1932, and the history of business shows that for several months before the election business is at a standstill. Also, for several months after the new President, or the re-elected President, takes his seat in March, business remains at a standstill for possibly six months. Further, history shows that a revival in business does not take place in the summer time.

There may, of course, be a few minor fluctuations in our cattle prices during the next two years, but such fluctuations will be temporary, and our present price levels will remain for the next two years just about where they are now.

I am convinced that the fall of 1933 will see the beginning of an era of prosperity that will be healthy, steady, and satisfactory, not only to the cattle industry, but to every other line of business.

My advice to the cattle-producers of California is, as far as possible, to refrain from selling their production at the present low price. If they can arrange their business, and if they can plan their range, so that they can keep off the market for the next two years, they will make money by doing so. In other words, only sell what they have to sell, or what they are forced to sell, in order to carry on, and plan to keep back and keep on the range all the young stuff they can, so as to be ready to take advantage of the increased price, the increased demand, and the better market that they are bound to get the latter part of the year 1933.

Personally, as far as I possibly can, I am trimming my own sails so as to do this. I am, of course, being forced to sell some cattle this fall and next spring that I really do not want to sell and would much rather keep, but circumstances compel me to do this. Many other cattle-producers, if they carry on their business with the aim in view of selling only what they are forced to sell, and not selling what they can keep, aiming at the fall of 1933, are going to find themselves in a much better financial condition than those who are being forced to dispose of everything that is salable for the next two years, regardless of the price they will receive.

We are facing one of the most serious situations we have faced in our industry for many years, and unless our financial backers help us and carry on with us for the next two years, many a good cattleman will be put out of business. It is up to the banks and the cattle loan companies, and those interested in the successful outcome of our business, to bear with us and help us over the most difficult two years we have had in our business for the last twenty-five years.

I have nothing more to say, other than that it is again being pointed out very plainly to me that the cattlemen having breeding cows, and sticking with the cow end of the business, will be much better off than the men who are in the cattle business only as feeders and producers of fat steers—buying their feeders, and depending upon a price spread, instead of producing their own, and feeding for market their own feeder cattle.

FRED H. BIXBY.

## RECALLING OLD TIMES

MARFA, TEX., November 7, 1931.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Old-timers were given an opportunity to recall early-day scenes when L. C. Brite, aided by twenty-seven cowboys, came

to town recently with 1,228 head of his steer calves. These calves were all of Mr. Brite's own raising and in one straight brand—the famous Bar Cross. They were out of his fine herd of 3,500 mother cows roaming on his 140,000-acre ranch, nestling in the foothills thirty-five miles west of Marfa, and were the best lot he ever raised. The calves were all fat, as his ranch was very fortunate this year in receiving good rains.

Mr. Brite established this ranch in 1885. For the past twenty years he has been turning most of his male calves out as bulls; consequently not many Brite steers have been fed. For the past ten years he has sold on an average 1,000 bulls each year, and has probably sold more bulls than any other man in the United States. Brite bulls are very favorably known throughout the range sections.

The calves were purchased by the National Feeder and Finance Corporation of Chicago, which will distribute them among many of the good feeders in the East. Some, we understand, will go to 4-H Club members.

This fall a number of Brite fed steers were shown at the State Fair at Columbus, Ohio. One carload took first and grand-champion prize over all breeds. Two other loads took third and fourth. One individual out of the lot won first against all breeds.

J. E. Vaughn, our ex-ranger and ex-sheriff, who now operates a ranch adjoining Mr. Brite's, and whose herd was founded with Brite heifers, sent eighty-eight head with the same shipment, of the same type and quality. This made twenty-nine carloads going out in a special train. Mr. Vaughn shipped one car of select heifers to Wisconsin, where they will be fed by the Mineral Points Canning Company. These people buy several loads of feeders each year from this section.

DR. A. J. HOFFMAN,
*Secretary, Highland Hereford Breeders' Association.*

## SPAYING OF HEIFERS

STURGIS, S. D., November 20, 1931.

To THE PRODUCER:

In union there is strength. If all the agricultural colleges in the western states were turning out each year a class that would know how to spay, this would become almost as practical as castration. Then, if we would spay one-third to one-half of our heifer calves—culling, of course—we would not only raise the standard of our cattle, but would keep the cow where she would be considered the goose that laid the golden egg.

R. B. MCPHERSON.

## YARDAGE CHARGES HIGHWAY ROBBERY

OVINA, NEB., November 20, 1931.

To THE PRODUCER:

There is one item of expense in marketing live stock which I consider nothing short of highway robbery. That is yardage charges. I think your paper and all organizations for the welfare of live-stock interests should continue in a united effort to reduce this charge, not one or two cents per head, but 50 per cent. If stock-yard companies want to build million-dollar exchange buildings and million-dollar viaducts (without which they could serve the public just as efficiently), that is all right, but to expect us to pay for them without protesting is misjudgment of good nature. Freight and commission charges I consider fair, speaking of Omaha, but yardage charges are a racket and should be handled as such.

WILLIAM FAGAN, JR.

## BEEF-GRADING IN CANADA

VOLUNTARY GRADING OF GOVERNMENT-INspected beef has now been in operation in Canada for several years. Only the two top grades are marked, "choice" quality being identified by a red indelible band on every cut, and "good" by a blue band. The sale of this graded beef from the beginning has been very encouraging. In January, 1931, the amount marked was 867,000 pounds. By July sales had increased to nearly 2,000,000 pounds. It is estimated that more than 15,000,000 pounds have been sold during the past year.

Not all eligible beef is branded, the quantity being governed more or less by existing orders from the trade and by anticipation of demand. During recent months, packers have often found themselves short on supplies, according to the news letter, *Canada Week by Week*, issued by the Dominion government.

At its convention early this year, the Western Canada Live Stock Union, comprising the four cattle-raising provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, passed resolutions calling for investigation of the possibilities of making the beef-grading service compulsory, for adopting a system of standard nomenclature, and for extending the grading to mutton and lamb. Another resolution asked that packers co-operate with producers in making market requirements known for "the most acceptable weights of cattle, when such cattle are most in demand;" that, as far as possible, there be maintained price levels on a quality basis, in order to encourage the production of top-quality finished cattle; and that a Canada-wide advertising policy be inaugurated, "setting forth the superior values and known advantages of top-quality beef."

# WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

## FEDERAL FARM BOARD

ADVANCE RUMBLINGS FROM THE COMING ONslaught on the Federal Farm Board, when Congress gets into its stride, issued from Washington last month, where the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, of which Senator McNary, of Oregon, is chairman, was sitting in a preliminary probe of the activities and policies of the board. Things which the board hitherto had refused to divulge were here brought to light. Under questioning, James C. Stone, chairman of the board, produced a copy of his forthcoming report to Congress, in which it was revealed that the Wheat Stabilization Corporation had bought a total of 329,641,052 bushels of wheat, at a price of $270,204,504, or an average of 81.97 cents a bushel. (The present cash price is about 55 cents.) On November 1 there remained 189,656,187 bushels unsold. Of cotton, 1,319,809 bales had been purchased, for which $107,533,246 had been paid, or an average of 16.3 cents a pound. (At present cotton is selling at around 6 cents a pound.) Of this quantity there remained 1,310,789 bales still in the hands of the Stabilization Corporation.

For wheat stabilization the board had lent $160,148,762, and for cotton stabilization $74,953,882; making a total of $235,102,644. Besides, the Grain Stabilization Corporation owed $83,000,000 to commercial and intermediate credit banks.

The board still had between $50,000,000 and $65,000,000 left of its revolving fund. At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, cash in its coffers amounted to $59,977,608. Since then the final $100,000,000 of the authorized $500,000,000 had been made available, most of which had been committed in merchandising and commodity loans. Delinquent notes written off as losses amounted to $789,863, against which there was interest receivable of $1,175,876.

As evidence of the growth in co-operative marketing, the report stated that 250,000 farmers were being served by the Farmers' National Grain Corporation, doing a business three times that handled co-operatively before the Agricultural Marketing Act was passed. Similar large gains had been made by cotton, wool, and live-stock co-operatives.

The Farm Board, Mr. Stone said, would stand upon its record. Its operations, he thought, had greatly benefited farmers. The board wished no change in the law under which it was functioning, but should be given a longer period of test under more favorable economic conditions. If wheat had gone 2 cents lower in November, 1930, when the board entered the market with federal funds, the financial structure of the country might have collapsed.

"Some opposition is being encountered from those who object to the American farmer marketing his own product," states the report. "The board is not permitting this to interfere with the carrying-out of the duties imposed upon it by Congress. . . . The board confidently believes its long-term program to be sound, and that it is the best approach yet offered to bring about the permanent improvement of American agriculture."

The following list of loans was submitted:

| Commodity | Amounts Advanced | Repayments |
|---|---|---|
| Beans and soy-beans | $ 685,049 | $ 71,859 |
| Cotton | 140,526,937 | 95,674,997 |
| Dairy products | 13,291,662 | 4,235,354 |
| Citrus fruits | 3,020,882 | 712,818 |
| Grapes and raisins | 20,105,361 | 5,434,009 |
| Other deciduous fruits | 1,844,717 | 353,596 |
| Miscellaneous fruits and vegetables | 350,470 | 9,398 |
| Grain | 47,215,932 | 34,236,294 |
| Honey | 45,839 | 6,158 |
| Live stock | 4,829,704 | 1,661,559 |
| Nuts | 445,000 | 46,000 |
| Poultry and eggs | 531,000 | 139,500 |
| Rice | 988,538 | 198,529 |
| Seeds | 153,141 | 37,214 |
| Tobacco | 2,782,131 | 580,178 |
| Wool and mohair | 18,741,746 | 2,889,527 |
| Total | $255,866,458 | $146,367,200 |
| Cotton stabilization | 133,460,038 | 58,506,156 |
| Grain stabilization | 272,972,604 | 112,823,842 |
| Grand total | $662,299,100 | $317,697,208 |

* * *

Incorporation of the Oklahoma Live Stock Marketing Association, and the purchase by it of the National Commission Company at Oklahoma City, are announced. The purchase price is to be paid over a period of five years, out of the profits of the new organization. Harry Blake, of Pawhuska, is president.

* * *

Invitation has been extended by the Federal Farm Board to wool and mohair co-operatives to form a Wool and Mohair Advisory Committee of seven members, at least two of whom are to be experienced handlers or processors.

* * *

Prediction that the world grain surplus will be eliminated by next year is made by James C. Stone, chairman of the Farm Board. Short crops and weather damage during the past season, together with indications of reduced plantings for 1932, he thinks, will again establish a balance between production and consumption. Acreage of winter wheat, he estimates, will be cut 18 to 22 per cent.

## NEW CHAIRMAN OF TARIFF COMMISSION

ROBERT L. O'BRIEN, OF DEDHAM, MASSACHUsetts, has been appointed chairman of the United States Tariff Commission. Mr. O'Brien, by profession a journalist, early in his career was personal stenographer to President Cleveland, but in 1896—the year of Bryan's first nomination—became a convert to Republicanism.

# OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHARLES E. BLAINE

*Traffic Counsel, American National Live Stock Association*

### Cases Pending before Interstate Commerce Commission

NO. 17000, PART 9, LIVE STOCK—WESTERN DIStrict Rates: In the October PRODUCER (page 18) we reported a list of various live-stock petitions for reopening, reconsideration, or modification of the order in this proceeding. The Western Trunk Line carriers vigorously protested all these applications, stating in substance that, considering the scope of the proceeding, relatively few petitions for reconsideration had been filed, and that the decision should become effective, leaving for future determination any local or peculiar situations which might be deemed by any interests to require correction. The commission, in an order dated November 9, denied all the applications for reopening referred to. Subsequently various carriers in Mountain-Pacific Territory filed a consolidated petition for reconsideration and for limited rehearing with respect to rates on live stock in that territory. The carriers state that the prescribed rates will result in serious losses in net revenues, and that they are unreasonably low. Among other arguments, it is alleged that the decision is in error as to matters of law in several particulars. This shows the anomalous position of the railroads in the Western District as to the rates prescribed by this decision. However, the motive is readily apparent. It is obvious that the Western Trunk Line carriers object to a reopening of this case, because they secured substantial increases in rates. On the other hand, as previously reported, the rates in Mountain-Pacific Territory in the final analysis resulted in approximately the same rates as had been in effect. Therefore the Mountain-Pacific carriers have petitioned the commission for reopening and reconsideration as to their territory, with the hope of securing an increase in their rates.

Los Angeles interests operating cattle-feeding plants have petitioned the commission for reconsideration and modification of the order on the record as made with respect to application of stocker and feeder cattle rates to Los Angeles.

The St. Louis Live Stock Exchange has filed a petition for reconsideration, rehearing, or reargument on the "market privilege" phase of the opinion and order in this case.

The Missouri River markets of Kansas City, South St. Joseph, Sioux City, and Omaha have filed a consolidated petition for reconsideration and modification of the commission's findings and order relating to proportional rates from Missouri River markets to Mississippi River crossings on traffic destined beyond.

Ex Parte No. 193—15 per Cent Case, 1931: As reported in THE PRODUCER, the commission, on October 16, denied the petition of the carriers for a flat increase in rates of 15 per cent on live stock and all major agricultural products. The increase was denied in its entirety. On certain other commodities, specific increases were authorized, contingent upon the carriers pooling the revenue therefrom and using it only for the purpose of aiding the weaker lines to enable them to meet their interest charges, under a plan to be worked out by the carriers and submitted to the commission not later than December 1. On November 19 the Association of Railway Executives filed with the commission the railroads' plan for giving effect to the commission's decision. This plan, among other things, provides for the creation of a railroad credit corporation to administer the pool fund, with the request that the commission modify its decision in several ways, particularly so that the distribution to the weaker lines would be in the form of loans and not gifts.

No. 20867—San Antonio Meat Co. v. Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, et al.: Therein the commission found unreasonable the rates on cattle and sheep from points in Utah on the Rio Grande to Los Angeles and Pomona, Cal., and awarded reparation. The finding of unreasonableness relates only to the past. No finding or order was made or

needed for the future, because of the conclusions and rates prescribed in Live Stock, Western District Rates, 176 I. C. C. 1.

### Court Decisions

E. P. & S. W. R. R. Co. v. Arizona Corporation Commission, et al., 51 Fed. Rep. (2d) 573: The District Court held that an Arizona carrier may only charge and collect rates prescribed by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Where the carrier merely collected intrastate rates authorized by the State Corporation Commission, the commission was without authority to order reparation, though the rate prescribed and charged was found excessive. The provision authorizing the Corporation Commission to require reparation for excessive charges applies only where the carrier has enforced rates in excess of those prescribed by the commission.

### Freight Bureau Dockets

Southwestern Freight Bureau Docket No. 23692—Live Stock, Stop-Over to Complete Loading: The following rule is proposed by the carriers on live stock from stations in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska to Missouri, Mississippi River, and other middle-western live-stock markets:

"On carload shipments of live stock, one stop to complete loading will be permitted, without additional charge, at points directly intermediate between origin and final destination. On mixed carload shipments, shipper at first point of loading to install or furnish necessary partitions for the separation of the several species of stock.

"*Note*—The through rate from initial point of origin to final destination, or from stop-over point to final destination, whichever is higher, will be assessed, such rate to be applied on total weight of shipment, but not less than the applicable minimum weight. (Rule to expire April 30, 1932.)"

The carriers state that certain Missouri lines have been trying this privilege, and that the results obtained seem to warrant extension of the privilege to other fields where it is necessary to cope with truck competition.

Southwestern Freight Bureau Docket No. 23693—Minimum Weights on Cattle, Calves, Hogs, and Sheep: The carriers propose to establish the following rule in connection with existing rates from stations in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma to St. Louis, Mo., Carondelet, Mo., East St. Louis, Ill., National Stock Yards, Ill., Missouri River, and other live-stock markets, upon request:

"(a) On hogs, single-deck, straight carloads, when in cars of 36 feet and 7 inches and under in length (inside measurement), minimum weight will be 15,000 pounds, and in cars over 36 feet and 7 inches to and including 40 feet and 6 inches in length (inside measurement), the minimum weight will be 17,000 pounds.

"(b) On mixed carloads of cattle, calves, hogs, and sheep, single-deck, from one consignor to one consignee, apply the minimum weights shown in paragraph (a), and the current hog, single-deck, rates (shipper to install, at his expense, necessary partition for the separation of the several species of stock). (This rule to expire April 30, 1932.)"

The carriers state that this rule has been tried in individual cases, and seems to warrant extension to other fields where it is necessary to cope with truck competition.



# TRADE REVIEW

## OUR FOREIGN COMMERCE

DATA ON THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED States for September were not received in time for publication in the November PRODUCER. Both exports and imports showed increases over the previous month, the favorable balance amounting to about $10,000,000, against an excess of imports of $1,848,000 for August. This improved trend was continued in October, complete figures for which follow:

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Exports | $205,000,000 | $326,896,000 | $2,046,731,000 | $3,279,346,000 |
| Imports | 169,000,000 | 247,367,000 | 1,787,657,000 | 2,648,679,000 |
| Excess of exports | $ 36,000,000 | $ 79,529,000 | $ 259,074,000 | $ 630,667,000 |

## EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ANImal fats from the United States for the month of October and the ten months ending October, 1931, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

### BEEF PRODUCTS

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Beef, fresh | 106,861 | 245,214 | 1,808.129 | 2,508,872 |
| Beef, pickled | 1,345,029 | 2,002,639 | 11,159,666 | 12,545,444 |
| Oleo oil | 4,399,750 | 4,294,850 | 39,269,565 | 46,578,784 |
| Totals | 5,851,640 | 6,542,703 | 52,237,360 | 61,633,100 |

### PORK PRODUCTS

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Pork, fresh | 893,724 | 437.728 | 7,095,928 | 13,137,091 |
| Pork, pickled | 1,220,284 | 1,858,797 | 13,582,455 | 27,253,462 |
| Bacon | 2,944.334 | 3,267,756 | 32,875,781 | 82,766,684 |
| Cumberland sides | 189,618 | 189,938 | 1,451,939 | 3,731,806 |
| Hams and shoulders | 5,627,635 | 5,259,256 | 73,797,046 | 104,255,930 |
| Wiltshire sides | .......... | 5,406 | 144 | 1,933,305 |
| Lard | 43,546,988 | 41,395,535 | 467,905,973 | 554,820,046 |
| Lard compounds | 198,526 | 253,476 | 1,395,064 | 1,982,763 |
| Neutral lard | 550,815 | 630,410 | 7,657,811 | 11,328,319 |
| Totals | 55,171,924 | 53,298,302 | 605,762,141 | 801,209,406 |

### Britain Moves in Defense of Home Industries

A bill has been passed by the British Parliament empowering the Board of Trade to impose import duties as high as 100 per cent ad valorem on certain industrial products, such as glass manufactures, hardware, scientific instruments, electrical gods, paper, films, leather articles, and agricultural machinery. Food products are exempted. This is the first move toward protection of home industries taken by the new government. The duties have already gone into effect.

# FOREIGN

## LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[*Special Correspondence to The Producer*]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, October 16, 1931.

THE UNSATISFACTORY ECONOMIC CONDITION OF the beef industry in north Australia was well ventilated at last month's annual meeting of the Queensland Cattle Growers' Association. As is often the case at gatherings of that nature, the governments and the butchers came in for a good deal of criticism. So far as governments are concerned, this was certainly deserved; for they have done little to lighten the burden of direct and indirect taxation that is weighing down the industry. To mention one point, they are still collecting land taxes on freeholds and leaseholds, which, seeing that most properties have lately been worked at a loss, is nothing more than a tax on capital. Then the customs duty and 6 per cent sales tax on galvanized iron, fencing material, and piping have increased the cost of those items to such an extent as to make improvements, however necessary and urgently required, figure as luxuries.

On butchers was laid the blame for the wide spread between the amount received by cattle-growers for fat animals and the price charged to consumers for beef. That the gap is too great is acknowledged on all hands, but the problem is to find a way to contract it to the benefit of the producer. The chairman of the Cattle Growers' Association revived an old proposition that breeders and fatteners should kill on their own account, and sell the resultant carcasses to the butcher or ship oversea. That, in the past, has been almost impossible, owing to a lack of public abattoirs in the north. Now, however, that Swift's large packing plant on the Brisbane River has been converted into an abattoir to serve the Brisbane district, it may be possible, though whether really practical is another matter. Generally speaking, cattlemen have neither the time nor the training to attend to details incidental to the business of a meat wholesaler; so an intermediary of some kind or other would have to be introduced into the business.

It has been suggested that growers should form a co-operative company to look after the selling and exporting side of the beef business, and it is quite possible that something may be tried in that direction before long. Graziers' co-operative companies for the operation of meat-works, and the distribution of meat locally or oversea, have been founded in Australia on a number of occasions in past years. These, after a checkered career, have without exception failed, and the works fallen into the hands of public or proprietary concerns, usually at a considerable discount on the original cost. On the other hand, the many co-operative companies formed for the manufacture of butter, or the handling of farm produce, which are a feature throughout the country districts, are for the most part reasonably successful. It seems strange that the meat companies should fail where others succeed, and the only explanation I can offer is that cattle-producers are not able to subscribe sufficient capital to carry them over the periodic lean times to which the industry is subjected. The chief causes of those lean times are sudden shortage of supplies, due to occasional droughts, and the collapse of oversea markets, due to world-wide economic conditions such as exist today. The big packing firms which control the export trade in Queensland possess reserves that enable them to face adverse conditions as they happen, if not with equanimity, at least with the assurance that they can survive to make up the losses when matters improve.

Co-operative meat-freezing companies have been more successful in New Zealand. This is probably explained by the fact that seasonal conditions there are more consistent than in Australia, that country never experiencing a drought such as we know here. This means that the works are assured a more regular supply in respect to both quantity and quality. The latter is a very important factor in connection with the success of the meat-export trade in New Zealand, and one that is too often absent in the Commonwealth. Here the threat of a drought may force large numbers of half-finished animals on the market that have to be slaughtered and shipped if a serious slump is to be avoided, though it is generally recognized that the meat will not enhance the reputation of the whole output.

Cattle prices in Queensland have lately shown an upward trend, thanks to a small improvement in London quotations for frozen beef. For cattle purchased in the Enoggera (Brisbane) yards export companies have lately been paying $5.24 to $5.64 per 100 pounds, dressed weight, for first-grade bullocks, and up to $5 for good cows. The killing season in north Queensland has finished, none of the packing plants there having had a particularly satisfactory run. A good deal of the country from which those works draw supplies has been dry, and cattle have not fattened. The small government plant at Wyndham, on the north coast of Western Australia, closed down the middle of September after putting through 31,170 head of cattle—the best kill ever done in one season. The bulk of the beef treated at Wyndham is shipped to Belgium, it being of the leaner type especially suited to European requirements.

Reports are coming to hand from the range country of south Queensland of fairly heavy mortality amongst cattle through eating a certain grub. It appears that the grub causing the trouble is connected with the life-cycle of one of the sawflies—so termed from the fact that the female fly is endowed with a sawlike organ that is employed in placing its eggs. The fly possesses the high-sounding name of *Poterygophorus analis*, and the grub feeds on the foliage of the silver-leaf ironbark—a tree of the eucalypt family. The grub has a distinct salty flavor, a taste for which becomes a form of depraved appetite with cattle on certain occasions. Apparently the craving is most pronounced in relatively wet seasons, or perhaps the grubs are worst in such years. This year, and on previous occasions at irregular intervals, cattle have been observed rushing from tree to tree to pick up the grubs as they fall to the ground, and consuming them in such quantities as to cause internal septic conditions. One owner reported the loss of 300 head last month, and mostly young stock. Some graziers are said to have found that a liberal supply of salt placed in the paddocks when the grub is in evidence counteracts the abnormal appetite. Entomological investigations are being conducted with a view to parasiting the pest.

Reference was made a few months ago to the placing with a foreign firm in Manchuria of a contract for the supply of 1,600 tons of frozen beef to the United States forces in Manila, Philippine Islands, which had been held for many previous years by Queensland packers. Advice has lately been received that some of the beef being delivered by the contractor is of such poor quality that the commissariat officers have rejected it. Whatever truth there may be in the report, it is significant that shipments of beef from Australia to Manila have started to increase again.

# THE MARKETS

## LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN NOVEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 1, 1931.

LOFTY, SOARING TOPS, CONTRASTED WITH A shaky middle-price structure, have featured fat-cattle trade. The logic of a $12 to $13 per cwt. upper crust, when common steers were appraised as low as $4, and a spread of $7 to $9.50 represented actual transactions on a large percentage of the steer crop, is not apparent, having mystified the trade as never before. Around December 1, fat cattle of identical weight sold between $6 and $7, on the one hand, and $12 to $13, on the other. Of course, they were radically different in character and condition, but the spread was abnormally, if not unreasonably, wide. The most exasperating phase of this situation, however, was inability of steers, that to the average man were as fat as the $12 to $13 kinds, to sell within $4 per cwt. of the top, which actually reached $13.25 late in November. Years ago a theory that killers had a policy of boosting fat cattle during the fall replacement season, to stimulate stocker-buying, received wide credence, but this year's price movement was not open to that suspicion, as the cattle involved were too few in number for such tactics to exert the accredited influence. Few feeders had cattle selling above $11 per cwt. during the period when the top went from that figure to $13, and no considerable proportion of the whole crop was involved.

### High Prices on Top Steers Legitimate

That the price-boosting process was legitimate was evident to those watching the gradual advance, which, so far as Chicago was concerned (and there were few such cattle at other markets), was a duel between Tim Ingwersen, head buyer for Swift, and Mose Greenwald, who is responsible for the Nagle, Jersey City, purchase. Henry Du Plan, the Wilson buyer, broke into the top circle once when he paid $13; Tom Cross, Armour's representative, manifesting no disposition to spend money that way. Behind it was an effort to control a certain New York trade in which quality is paramount to cost. Had a few more such cattle been available, November pyrotechnics would have been impossible. In Wall Street parlance it would have been called a "squeeze," feeders all but running out of long-fed steers weighing 1,100 pounds up. As the great majority of these $11 to $13 cattle were laid in late in 1930 at the relatively high prices then current, and were fed a year on a falling market, they were not wholly profitable. In fact, some did not pay out, although they did decidedly better in the final accounting than had they been marketed back in the June-to-August period, when similar bullocks had to be content with $8 to $8.50 per cwt.

### Intermediary Grades in Poor Demand

Practically all the vicissitude which feeders have encountered at the market recently has been found with "in-between" grades—steers selling in a great open space of anywhere from $7 to $10.50 per cwt. Such cattle declined $1 per cwt. during November, backing and filling during what was obviously an adjustment process. Good steers pulled them upward early in their advance, but when the connecting band broke they flopped. Feeders contributed to current disorder by flooding the market with merely warmed-up steers early; then, on the break, becoming semi-panicky, and in a scramble to unload, breaking prices on themselves. Bids and actual sales were frequently $1 to $1.50 per cwt. apart, indicating how vague the sense of values in traders' minds became, these middle grades of cattle lacking a dependable trading basis for days at a time, and frequently hanging around the market a week to ten days before getting over the scales. The type known as 'pretty good" cattle was most affected by this eccentricity. Invariably when top cattle make a decisive major movement in either direction they carry the types susceptible of substitution with them, which is what happened on this occasion. While the "going" was good, short-fed heavy steers were carried along, reaching an illogical level before cut loose with a crash. Some of these cattle, that cost $7 to $7.50 in fleshy condition back in April and May, sold at $11 to $11.50 at the high point in November. In one instance a drove of bullocks acquired at $6 in Kansas City last April made $10.50 in November at Chicago. Naturally, with such fat purses hanging on the wire, owners of this kind of cattle responded. Light, warmed-up steers never got into the procession, even choice yearlings lagging $1 per cwt. behind the 1,200- to 1,400-pound class.

### Lower Qualities Holding up Well

Down in the lower levels, coincident with cessation of selling pressure from the trans-Missouri grazing regions, northwest and southwest, steers in the substrata of prices gained 75 cents to $1 per cwt. November delivered a scant crop of grass beef from the northwestern area, but that horn of bovine plenitude, the Southwest, was well represented, although its weekly contribution did not reach glut volume. Steers selling at $4.50 to $6.50 were reasonably popular with all classes of killers, suggesting healthy demand for the cheaper grades of carcass beef, and, but for scarcity of finished steers, the abnormally wide spread—at one time from $4 to $13.25 per cwt.—would not have been recorded. Killers, of course, got few steers with pretension to merit below $5.50, but they did gather in a considerable number of short-fed and warmed-up steers weighing anywhere from 900 to 1,200 pounds between that figure and $6.50; likewise, an army of $3 to $4.50 cows and $5 to $7 heifers, the product of which constituted a heavy tonnage of cheap beef, which consumptive trade absorbed without showing signs of indigestion, in competition

with cheap veal, pork, and lamb. On the whole, it was not a discreditable performance.

### Hogs Continue Retreat

Hogs declined gradually, with few indications of resiliency, until average drove cost at Chicago reached $4.50, from which there was a healthy "come-back." Nothing notable developed, except killer capacity to absorb every hog available at current prices, despite continuous heavy slaughter. Prices dropped close to the low level reached during the Roosevelt panic, when Armour put up a drove in Chicago at $3.90, from which there was prompt recovery of $1 per cwt.; repetition of which is possible, but improbable, on this occasion. Hog and cattle prices are not on speaking terms, suggesting a new alignment; but this may be offset by relatively low current beef production. Pork, in its various fresh and cured forms, has not been so cheap in the wholesale market in many a long day, fresh loins selling at 9 to 11 cents per pound. The winter course of the market depends on supply, weight, and how marketing is done. Packingtown holds to the theory that the country is full of fat hogs; and there is nothing, statistical or otherwise, on which to base contradiction of that claim.

### Narrow Spread in Lambs

Lamb-feeders have been going "over the bumps" for the third successive season. November developed a $5.50 to $6.50 market, with a $6.85 top that lasted barely long enough for recording purposes. Much of the time packers had their peg in the $6 hole at Chicago, where basic values are made. Incidentally, they acquired a raft of fair-fleshed western lambs, off grass, at $5 to $5.50; availability of this stuff—mainly from Montana—having exerted a potent influence in holding prices of good lambs down. While the spread in cattle prices has been abnormally wide, that condition has been reversed in lamb trade, where the bulk of the offering has sold within a spread of $1 per cwt., common lambs traveling closer to tops than in many years. The outstanding phase of lamb trade has been capacity of killers to take offerings—fat, medium-fleshed, and thin—at the prices, paying relatively more for common than for choice goods. As practically nothing went to the freezer, this demand represented immediate consumption requirements, as every short run prompted buying for numbers, "gentlemen's agreements" in killing circles, if they exist, being temporarily ignored. Sheep have sold close to lambs, at $2 to $3 per cwt., although only a limited number could be utilized. Feeders took lambs all through November at $4.50 to $4.75—mostly Montana "whitefaces;" that phase of the trade having a strong undertone.

## MARKET PROSPECTS

J. E. P.

### Cattle

STATISTICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING PROSpective winter and spring beef production is lacking as usual. Nothing is definitely known, other than the number of cattle passing through the central markets to finishing areas. That number is about 20 per cent less than during the corresponding period of 1930. Compared with the previous three-year period—1928 to 1930—the discrepancy is even greater. Until the crop is in, the actual number of cattle destined for the shambles during the first half of 1932 cannot even be conjectured. Beef tonnage during that period will be light, as it has been since the crop of heavy steers ran out in October. Tonnage, rather than numbers, counts, and when the beef market is relieved of a surplus of heavy product the whole distributive trade benefits. That no excess supply of heavy steers will be available at any time during 1932 is evident. The type of cattle that develops into overweight bullocks did not go in, and there is little evidence of a disposition to carry light cattle into long feeds, especially if they can be marketed in the meantime to show a profit. What happened in November indicates the temper of the average feeder. Cattle will go to market at the earliest opportunity.

A non-statistical survey of the supply prospects justifies the conclusion that those feeders who were fortunate enough to be able to buy cattle are in possession of as many as, or a few more than, last year. Those unable to secure purchase loans have acquired few. Many are without cattle, with scant prospect of getting any. Instead of improving, the bond market has gone from bad to worse, impairing bank capital and inspiring determination to fortify financial positions. Had the bond market improved during November, stock-cattle purchase would have been substantially larger and values would have ruled at least $1 per cwt. higher. Clamor for cattle-purchase money was unappeasable, many being unable to raise a dollar for replacement purposes. In any event, few fleshy steers with weight would have gone into feeders' hands, as the Northwest did not make that kind this year, owing to drought, and killers' needs for cheap steer beef were urgent. Southwestern grassers were fat, but a large percentage of the heavy, fleshy steers from that area lacked feeder quality.

The feed situation is as favorable to beef-making operations as cattle prices. In the case of corn, conditions are unusual. Generally local prices are lowest in the western part of the Corn Belt, advancing eastward, but this year this has been turned about. Corn is moving westward from Iowa, reversing the usual direction of the crop. In Ohio and Indiana, corn is selling around 31 cents, compared with 64 cents a year ago and 72 cents two years ago. In Illinois and Iowa the price is around 39 cents, compared with 60 cents last year and 71 cents two years ago. In Nebraska and South Dakota, corn is around 40 cents, compared with 49 cents last year and 66 cents in 1929.

This will naturally restrict cattle-feeding in the western section of the feeding belt. It is a condition reflecting the outcome of this year's corn crop, which was short in the upper Missouri valley—a section where long-period feeding is the rule. In other words, the short-feeding and warming-up sections contain the bulk of the cattle in preparation for the butcher, and they are for sale at the earliest opportunity. The same condition exists in the Southwest, where the general practice is to take the short route to the money. East of Chicago, where corn was a good crop, cattle acquisition has been on a restricted scale elsewhere than eastern Pennsylvania, so that the major portion of the prospective beef supply is located in the Corn Belt states.

Recent fat-cattle market action has not inspired feeders with confidence. They are suspicious of a 4½-cent hog market and a 6-cent lamb trade, with fat cattle averaging around 8½ cents per pound. Had the industrial situation lived up to its advertisement, a more favorable view of the prospect would have been possible, as cattle-feeders are inherently optimistic; but between a demoralized railroad situation, continued suspension of building operations, a crippled steel industry, and refusal of union labor to fall in line with the price-readjustment procession, feeders are justified in taking skeptical views. Sooner or later the present wide spread between cattle and the other species will be adjusted; just how remains to be developed.

No friendly hand is extended to beef. Public eating-houses are still charging prices radically out of line with wholesale costs, and many retailers are pursuing the same policy. At intervals some railroad publicist asserts interest in the cattleman, such claims being inconsistent with dining-car charges for the product. Even the domestic economists ignore beef in their literary effusions. It is true that the market affords a mass of cheap beef, but much of it is trash—the product of cows and heifers selling at $3 to $6 per cwt., and low-grade steers costing $4 to $6.50. If it were less cheap, consumers would balk at buying this inferior product.

If cattle acquired at current prices and fattened on such cheap feed as is now available cannot pay out, the case is hopeless. Probably the season will produce favorable results, but feeders will have much to do with the outcome. With other foods—avian and piscatorial—plentiful and cheap, cattle must be cashed cautiously to avoid generating trouble at the market. With the passing of the holiday season, killers will wrestle with a new crop of steers, of uncertain dressing capacity, probably selling within a narrow range of $6.50 to $8.50 per cwt. If such a market can be maintained, cattle handled capably in the feed-lot will pay out. Possibly a few prize packages may appear in the sales list, as choice, weighty steers will be scarce, and New York always needs a few. There is nothing in the prospect to justify carrying plain, or rough, heavy cattle along, as such trade as handles weighty beef demands quality in combination with condition.

Possibility, if not danger, exists of too many cattle of the same type reporting at the market during the first hundred days of 1932, in which event the market will run wild, recording violent weekly fluctuations. A large number of common steers were taken out by feeders for economy purposes, causing concern as to their reception. Likewise the heifer investment has been heavy, and such cattle are an uncertain beef-vending proposition above a certain volume. Cows of all kinds, from canner to kosher, have been relatively low and should do better.

Under present conditions, beef is carrying the load, as by-product has little value. Hides are down; fats—edible and otherwise—are without a dependable market; and other offal is hard to sell. Beef hearts can be worked into sausage, and yearling livers go to the consumer as calf product; but there is no direct outlet for heavy livers, and casings have such slight value that killers are tanking entrails as more economical than putting a labor bill into the product.

Any improvement in industrial conditions will be promptly reflected in beef and cattle markets; but whenever killers bid for fat cattle they will get a run. During the January-to-March period there will be enough to go around, such as they are, with some to spare on numerous occasions; and if it is possible to market the bulk of the crop on about the same basis as similar cattle are now selling, no serious complaint will be heard. Feeders are in the strongest strategic position, with reference to initial cost and expense incidental to putting on gains, since 1929, and if they are able to make a modicum of velvet during the next sixty days, the whole industry will be heartened. Calves acquired at $5.50 to $7.50 per cwt. give feeders a good start.

Efforts artificially to boost the price of corn, while not seriously taken, have had the effect of dislodging some cattle prematurely. Undoubtedly the trend of feed cost is upward, and if this becomes pronounced, cattle will move earlier than otherwise. The average feeder is in anything but a strong financial position, but if he can turn the present set of cattle over at a profit, he will be back in the market for more. Cattle-trade performance during the next sixty days will have a barometrical influence.

**Sheep**

Constantly overflowing lamb markets, record weekly slaughter, and low prices for pelts and other by-products tell the story of current price events. Killers are exercising at

least a measure of control over values, as excess supply gives them effective leverage. A $5.50 to $6.50 market, which is the spread within which much of the fed-lamb crop has been selling, affords little encouragement to feeders. The only encouraging phase of the trade is the facility with which the entire package of product has been absorbed, as resort to freezer clearance as a temporary relief measure has not been necessary.

Central market output statistics do not indicate feed-lot congestion, but the direct movement from range to feed-lot has been heavy, owing to the large number of lambs put out on feeding contracts. A cynic remarked recently that feeders had enough lambs to keep the trade supplied until next Fourth of July; doubtless there will be plenty throughout the December-to-March period. Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana have their full quota, but New York, Michigan, and Ohio are short. No tally has been made of the contents of various nooks and crannies where lamb-feeding is practiced on a more or less extensive scale, but all will contribute their quota. A time may come when lamb will register in the category of luxuries, but not in the near future. Nevertheless, the production cycle is at the contraction stage. The period of excess production will pass in 1933. Such disgorging of ewe lambs as marked the range season just closed cannot have any other logical result.

Winter production has been reduced to some extent by the manner in which packers have taken medium-fleshed western lambs at prices 75 cents to $1 per cwt. below cost of finished stock. Ordinarily such stock, weighing around 70 pounds, would go to feeders, but so much of it came to market this year, and feeders were so fearful of starting handicapped with weight, that killers were given the right-of-way. As the product got a cordial reception from consumers, it made money, affording a demonstration of the fact that lamb-eaters want little heavy, fat meat.

Never before has the spread between choice and common lambs been so narrow, illustrating the economical frame of mind of the ultimate consumer, as there has been no surplus of finished, overweight lambs. Good culls have been selling at $5; fat lambs, at $6 on packer account. Similarly, the spread between handy-weight ewes in the 120-pound class and good lambs is only about $3 per cwt.

Feeders need $8 per cwt., Chicago basis, to work out on this crop of lambs. Present indications are that they will not get it. Killers are reluctant to pay more than $6.25 for the best lambs, and are partial to a $5.50 to $6 market on the mine run. Whenever Chicago works to a $6 to $6.50 basis, the immediate response of the feeder is more lambs than can be cared for at the advance, which promptly melts away. No quarter is being given, and none is expected. Killers are taking every inch they can get, holding their ground tenaciously, although even gentlemen's agreements blow up occasionally, especially when a few short runs necessitate buying for numbers. Killers are passing reduced cost along to distributors, but the latter are "holding out." As "Bob" Mathison once explained, some retailers are fitting their prices to the new scale of wholesale quotations, others are not, and in the sphere of public eating-house distribution consumers are being consistently "soaked." Lamb carcasses, common to choice, are wholesaling at 5 to 7 cents per pound less than a year ago, and 9 to 13 cents under the corresponding period of 1929; yet charges for lamb on the average menu card—restaurant, hotel, club, or dining-car—show little, if any, change.

The outcome of the winter lamb-feeding season is obscure. Feeders will be fortunate if they extract a modicum of profit from the operation.



## COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on December 1, 1931, compared with November 2, 1931, and December 1, 1930 (per 100 pounds):

| | Dec. 1, 1931 | Nov. 2, 1931 | Dec. 1, 1930 |
|---|---|---|---|
| SLAUGHTER STEERS: | | | |
| Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.) | $12.00-12.75 | $11.00-11.75 | $11.75-13.50 |
| Good | 7.75-12.00 | 8 50-11.00 | 9.50-12.75 |
| Choice (900 to 1,100 lbs.) | 11.00-12 50 | 11.00-11.50 | 12.75-13.75 |
| Good | 7.50-11.25 | 8.50-11.00 | 10.00-12.75 |
| Medium (800 lbs. up) | 5.75- 7.75 | 6.00- 8.50 | 8.50-10.50 |
| FED YEARLING STEERS: | | | |
| Good to Choice | 7.50-11.75 | 8.50-11.50 | 10.50-13.75 |
| HEIFERS: | | | |
| Good to Choice | 6.25- 9.75 | 6.25-10.50 | 9.00-12.50 |
| COWS: | | | |
| Good to Choice | 3.75- 5.00 | 3.50- 4.75 | 5.25- 7.25 |
| CALVES: | | | |
| Good to Choice | 4.50- 6.00 | ........ | ........ |
| FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS: | | | |
| Good to Choice | 5.25- 7.00 | 4.75- 6.75 | 7.00- 9.25 |
| Common to Medium | 3.50- 5.25 | 3.25- 4.75 | 5.50- 7.50 |
| HOGS: | | | |
| Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.) | 4.25- 4.40 | 4.65- 5.00 | 8.15- 8.35 |
| LAMBS: | | | |
| Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down) | 4.50- 6.25 | 4.50- 6.75 | 6.00- 8.50 |
| EWES: | | | |
| Medium to Choice | 1.50- 3.00 | ........ | ........ |

## LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, SHIPments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-five markets for the month of October, 1931, compared with October, 1930, and for the ten months ending October, 1931 and 1930:

### RECEIPTS

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Cattle* | 1,530,830 | 1,676,878 | 11,184,204 | 11,416,718 |
| Calves | 606,010 | 700,515 | 5,113,171 | 5,317,210 |
| Hogs | 3,461,946 | 3,441,356 | 31,576,038 | 33,333,273 |
| Sheep | 3,955,997 | 3,783,561 | 28,029,823 | 24,893,733 |

### TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Cattle* | 872,825 | 939,770 | 5,027,257 | 4,983,848 |
| Calves | 226,771 | 283,239 | 1,586,431 | 1,734,656 |
| Hogs | 1,323,684 | 1,392,186 | 12,120,161 | 13,070,576 |
| Sheep | 2,470,856 | 2,237,794 | 14,557,026 | 11,990,482 |

### STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Cattle* | 495,362 | 570,262 | 2,009,790 | 2,216,181 |
| Calves | 86,346 | 120,476 | 292,812 | 400,661 |
| Hogs | 72,099 | 39,346 | 430,702 | 439,193 |
| Sheep | 1,181,215 | 1,023,857 | 4,292,433 | 3,419,946 |

### LOCAL SLAUGHTER

| | October | | Ten Months Ending October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1931 | 1930 | 1931 | 1930 |
| Cattle* | 664,518 | 768,226 | 6,081,343 | 6,277,918 |
| Calves | 368,479 | 414,983 | 3,502,821 | 3,588,028 |
| Hogs | 2,142,248 | 2,048,029 | 19,436,308 | 20,253,869 |
| Sheep | 1,497,396 | 1,597,015 | 13,342,996 | 12,863,583 |

*Exclusive of calves. †Including stockers and feeders.

## HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS of frozen and cured meats, lard, creamery butter, and eggs on November 1, 1931, as compared with November 1, 1930, and average holdings on that date for the past five years (in pounds):

| Commodity | Nov. 1, 1931 | Nov. 1, 1930 | Five-Year Average |
|---|---|---|---|
| Frozen beef | 20,873,000 | 47,221,000 | 41,107,000 |
| Cured beef* | 13,618,000 | 16,641,000 | 18,707,000 |
| Lamb and mutton | 1,958,000 | 4,326,000 | 3,882,000 |
| Frozen pork | 53,310,000 | 64,127,000 | 66,421,000 |
| Dry salt pork* | 79,496,000 | 43,194,000 | 90,970,000 |
| Pickled pork* | 246,940,000 | 248,485,000 | 273,431,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 49,109,000 | 72,444,000 | 58,077,000 |
| Totals | 465,304,000 | 496,438,000 | 552,595,000 |
| Lard | 39,641,000 | 36,211,000 | 72,801,000 |
| Butter | 56,164,000 | 109,646,000 | 114,682,000 |
| Frozen eggs | 94,860,000 | 98,359,000 | 69,810,000 |
| Eggs (cases) | 5,740,000 | 6,785,000 | 5,867,000 |

*Cured or in process of cure.

## WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on December 1, 1931, compared with November 2, 1931, and December 1, 1930, were as below (per 100 pounds):

### FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

| | Dec. 1, 1931 | Nov. 2, 1931 | Dec. 1, 1930 |
|---|---|---|---|
| STEERS (700 lbs. up): | | | |
| Choice | $15.00-17.00 | $14.50-17.00 | $17.00-18.50 |
| Good | 11.00-15.00 | 12.50-14.50 | 15.00-17.00 |
| STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.): | | | |
| Choice | 15.00-17.00 | 15.00-16.00 | 18.00-21.00 |
| Good | 11.00-15.00 | 13.50-15.00 | 15.50-18.00 |
| YEARLING STEERS: | | | |
| Choice | 15.00-17.00 | 16.00-17.00 | 20.00-22.50 |
| Good | 12.00-15.00 | 13.50-16.00 | 16.50-20.00 |
| COWS: | | | |
| Good | 8.50- 9.50 | 8.00-10.00 | 10.00-12.00 |
| VEALERS: | | | |
| Choice | 11.00-12.00 | 11.00-13.00 | 16.00-18.00 |
| Good | 9.00-11.00 | 10.00-11.00 | 15.00-17.00 |

### FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LAMBS (45 lbs. down): | | | |
| Choice | $12.00-13.00 | $13.00-15.00 | $17.00-19.00 |
| Good | 11.50-12.50 | 12.00-13.00 | 16.00-18.00 |
| EWES: | | | |
| Good | 7.00- 9.00 | 7.00- 9.00 | 8.00-10.00 |

### FRESH PORK CUTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LOINS: | | | |
| 8-10 lb. average | $ 9.00-10.00 | $11.00-13.00 | $18.00-20.00 |
| 10-12 lb. average | 9.00-10.00 | 11.00-12.50 | 17.00-19.00 |

**Canadian Farmers Have Radical Program**

The United Farmers of Manitoba, in convention at Brandon last month, adopted a sweeping program, which includes such items as nationalization of land resources and utilities, a central bank, consolidation of commercial farm bodies, lower tariffs and freight rates, improved credit facilities, and an inquiry into marketing costs.

## HIDE TRADE AT STANDSTILL

J. E. P.

BOTH IN THE SPOT AND THE FUTURES MARKETS, hide-trading has been at a standstill. Every trade requires two parties, and neither side has been disposed to take the initiative. Seasonal shoe-trade dulness is one reason, but perhaps the chief cause of lethargy has been general business conditions. After passing through a period of unprecedented volume, the New York Hide Exchange flopped into a state of coma, speculators ignoring the statistical strength of the product, and packers refusing to sell on new terms imposed by tanners concerning the 4 per cent trimming rule. This deadlock was in effect all through November, keeping tanners connected with the "council" wholly out of the packer market. Meanwhile packers are accumulating hides. A small volume of resale business has been done, although tanners are not giving it cognizance, in the hope of bringing packers to terms. Such declines as the futures market has shown have been more in sympathy with stocks and grains than due to weakness in hide values. Independent-packer hides are as nominal as big-packer property. For the moment, intrinsic values have disappeared. Country hides are slow, buyers awaiting re-establishment of a big-packer hide market.

No important developments have been detected in the European hide situation. Trading in the Argentine has been restricted. Some improvement in leather demand has not affected prices.

The position of the hide and leather industry continues statistically strong, due to a sharp decline in imports, reduced domestic slaughter, and steady consumption—the result of revival of shoe manufacture. An opinion is grounded that hides will be among the first commodities to respond to the inevitable upturn in values. Shoe production continues satisfactory, although the leather market is not active.

## WOOL OUTLOOK IMPROVING

J. E. P.

AFTER GOING OVER A SERIES OF BUMPS, WOOL trade shows encouraging recuperative power. But for sterling exchange difficulty, plus the Lawrence, Massachusetts, strike, recent tribulation would probably not have occurred. Late in November a fair volume of sales developed at eastern concentration points at somewhat higher prices. Regardless of actual sales, the market undertone shows distinct improvement. Fine territory and Texas wools have participated in a substantial turn-over, and buyers have not been able to crack the whip. Demand for both clothing and combing wools is picking up, a broad market for B supers having developed at prices ranging from 40 to 42 cents in Boston. There is no substantial accumulation of such property, the entire stock of scoured wools being only about equal to the holding of B supers a year ago. London advanced 5 to 15 per cent at the sale held the last week in November, fine cross-breds getting the maximum upturn. All foreign markets are healthy, recent price advances having offset the depreciation in sterling at foreign wool centers. At present levels, there is no warrant for pessimism. Germany's financial difficulties are far from the solution stage, but are susceptible of adjustment. The Sino-Japanese problem is also to be reckoned with.

A fair business is being done in the piece-goods market each week. If this continues, reflection will be found in the wool market. Price-cutting, however, is a menace.

England and Japan continue to dominate the Australian market. New Uruguayan wools have been moving rapidly. Texas wools are selling around 55 cents per pound, clean basis, and considerable fine and fine-medium territory product has moved at 55 to 57 cents, clean basis.

## FEEDSTUFFS

THE PRICE OF COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL, f. o. b. Texas points, on December 1 was $16 per ton. Kansas City hay prices on December 3 were: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, $16 to $17; No. 2 extra leafy, $14.50 to $15.50; No. 1, $13 to $14; No. 2 leafy, $11 to $13; No. 2, $9.50 to $10.50; No. 3 leafy, $8.50 to $9.50; No. 3, $7.50 to $8; sample, $5.50 to $7; prairie—No. 1, $9.50 to $10; No. 2, $8 to $9; No. 3, $6.50 to $7.50; sample, $4 to $6; timothy—No. 1, $10.50 to $11.50; No. 2, $8 to $10; No. 3, $6.50 to $7.50; sample, $5.50 to $6; timothy-clover, mixed—No. 1, $10.50 to $11.50; No. 2, $8 to $10; No. 3, $5.50 to $7.50; clover—No. 1, $10 to $11; No. 2, $7 to $9.50.



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## CATTLE- AND LAMB-FEEDING SITUATION

The number of stocker and feeder cattle inspected at public markets for shipment into the Corn Belt states up to the beginning of November was 2 per cent smaller than last year and 9 per cent below the five-year average. The largest decreases have been in the states west of the Missouri River. On the Pacific coast there will probably be some increase in the number of cattle fed for market this winter, but a decrease in the Rocky Mountain and intermountain states. Texas will feed a considerably larger number. The movement into the Lancaster area of Pennsylvania and Maryland has been much heavier this year than last.

Shipments of feeder lambs into the twelve north-central states for the four months July to October, inclusive, both through stock-yards and direct from the range, were about 15 per cent, or 250,000 head, larger than for the corresponding period of 1930, and the heaviest since 1926. Reductions in the Scottsbluff district of Nebraska have been offset by increases in the eastern sections of the state. In Colorado, feeding operations will be on a smaller scale than last winter. Other western states will feed about the same number. Only Texas reports a considerable increase.

## MEAT EXHIBIT AT INTERNATIONAL

The "Quality in Meats" exhibit at the International Live Stock Exposition this year not only was planned to give information of value to both producer and consumer, but to do a real job of promoting the use of meat in the diet, according to the National Live Stock and Meat Board, its sponsor. The exhibit showed why meat is logically the central item of the balanced diet, and why its food properties are essential to strength, energy, and all-around good health.

The National Live Stock and Meat Board introduced the first meat exhibit at the International in 1924, and since that time has sponsored an exhibit annually, with the co-operation of the exposition management, the Department of Agriculture, state agricultural colleges, and the Institute of American Meat Packers.

A brand-new feature this year stressed the fact that "meat prices are down." The advisability of retaining meat in the economy diet was emphasized. The exhibit showed that a family of five can be served with meat for 50 cents or less. Cuts of beef, pork, and lamb were included in the 50-cent feature.

Another display, of particular interest to producers, was that showing the new market grades of pork which have been tentatively agreed upon by the government, the packers, and the swine-growers. The different grades of beef bearing the government grade stamp were another feature. In connection with this were shown modern methods of merchandising beef. Along this line also were shown modern retail cuts of lamb.

## RANGE OF WOOL VALUES

The following table is taken from *Crops and Markets*. It shows the average prices, in cents per pound, for wool on the farm in all sections of the United States on June 15 of each of the years 1910 to 1931, inclusive:

| Year | Price |
|---|---|
| 1910 | 19.5 |
| 1911 | 15.5 |
| 1912 | 18.7 |
| 1913 | 15.6 |
| 1914 | 18.4 |
| 1915 | 23.7 |
| 1916 | 28.7 |
| 1917 | 49.8 |
| 1918 | 57.4 |
| 1919 | 50.5 |
| 1920 | 38.6 |
| 1921 | 15.4 |
| 1922 | 32.8 |
| 1923 | 41.5 |
| 1924 | 36.0 |
| 1925 | 35.7 |
| 1926 | 31.4 |
| 1927 | 30.2 |
| 1928 | 38.7 |
| 1929 | 30.2 |
| 1930 | 19.2 |
| 1931 | 13.0 |

## CORN-FED CATTLE SHOULD NOT BE TURNED INTO PASTURE

"It is better to sell directly from the feed-lot cattle that have been heavily corn-fed during the winter and spring than to turn them on pasture," writes *Live Stock Markets*. "Tests at the Ohio Experiment Station and elsewhere show that such cattle turned on grass lost heavily during the first few weeks, and even later failed to make large gains.

"For this reason, G. Bohstedt, head of the Animal Industry Department at the Ohio Station, holds that the turning of corn-fed cattle on grass in the spring is financially a risky practice, especially with poorly bred cattle. A feeding trial under his direction last year showed that corn-fed cattle would much better have been sold directly out of the feed-lot than later after having been turned on pasture."

## ESTABLISHMENT OF IRRIGATED PASTURES

Ecological analyses of the principles involved in the establishment of irrigated pastures, and many data based upon studies of, and experiments on, northern Colorado pasture land, are graphically set forth in a bulletin, entitled "Factors Influencing the Establishment of Irrigated Pastures in Northern Colorado," by Herbert C. Hanson, head of the Department of Botany at the North Dakota Agricultural College. Topography, soil conditions, preparation of seed-bed, selection of seed mixture and competition between species, grazing and mowing, and management are a few of the numerous factors bearing on irrigated pasture development that the author discusses in this pamphlet. The booklet may be obtained from the Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Like Father, Like Son.**—"That boy of ours gets more like you every day."
Husband (meekly)—"What's he been up to now?"—Boston Transcript.

# ROUND THE RANGE

## GOVERNMENT RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK REPORT

Below is a summary of range and live-stock conditions in the seventeen western range states at the beginning of November, as reported by the Denver office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics:

*Arizona.*—Winter feed prospects very good; large crop of matured range feed; new grass starting nicely; live stock in good shape.

*California.*—October rainfall much below normal; forage and stock-water shortage more acute; much early use of supplemental feed; live stock falling off; unless conditions improve speedily, winter costs will be extremely high.

*Colorado.*—Range feed short; rains in west have supplied stock water; hay and grain crops light; cattle and sheep in good condition; feeding to be lighter than last winter.





*Idaho.*—Rains have improved range and stock-water situation; winter feed poor; hay and grains generally ample; live stock mostly in good condition.

*Kansas (western).*—Native pastures very dry; wheat pastures mostly poor; plenty of rough feed in southwest; surplus of corn in northwest; many lambs on feed.

*Montana.*—Range slightly improved by rain, but range feed poor; hay and grain feed short, except in west; live stock in fair to good flesh; shipments have been heavy in dry sections.

*Nebraska (western).*—Range feed short and dry, but well cured; hay and grain crops generally ample; cattle in fair to good condition; shipments heavy.

*Nevada.*—Rains have supplied water and improved feed, though range is still poor; cattle and sheep thinner than usual; shipments about over.

*New Mexico.*—Winter range feed generally good; hay and other feed crops good; live stock in very good condition; cattle marketings light; few lambs contracted.

*North Dakota (western).*—Pasture, hay, and grain feeds short in western sections, with poor winter prospects; stock water short; live stock in fair to good flesh, except in drought area; shipments heavy.

*Oklahoma.*—Wheat pastures late and native pastures poor, though helped by recent rains; hay and feed grains short in west and central sections; cattle in fair flesh; marketings have been heavy.

*Oregon.*—Winter range and feed prospects generally poor; rains in late October improved water situation; hay and feed grains short; stock shipped close.

*South Dakota (western).*—Ranges generally poor; stock water short; hay and grain crops light; cattle and sheep in fair to good condition; shipments heavy.

*Texas.*—Ranges improved by October rains; grains and rough feeds abundant; cattle and sheep in good condition; many cattle fed out; lamb shipments heavy; large number of lambs moved from range areas to other sections for feeding.

*Utah.*—Desert ranges poor and short of water; most ranges badly overgrazed; hay and feed grains short; feeding to be restricted; live stock in fair to good condition.

*Washington.*—Range and pasture feed dry and short, rains coming too late; hay and grains generally ample; condition of live stock mostly good.

*Wyoming.*—Feed short in northeast and southwest, with some shortage of stock water; ranges in northwest and southeast carry fair supply of feed; cattle and sheep in fair to good flesh; shipping has been heavy.

## RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS

### Arizona

Heavy rains have recently fallen over practically all of Arizona. The outlook for winter feed in the southern part of the state is the best in years.—BERT HASKETT, Phoenix.

### Montana

We are better fixed for winter feed here than most other sections in this western part of the country, but the grass is gone, except for carefully preserved winter pastures. The cow business will come through, however, given a little more time for natural laws to operate. These laws will bring us recovery quicker than any other laws, and with less harm done in the end.—E. P. ORCUTT, Ashland.

In parts of Montana the stockmen have been hard hit by drought, but most of them are making arrangements to cary over a goodly number of their herds. Other parts of the state are able to winter their stock, and some cattlemen are increasing their holdings. Winter weather over Montana has been unusually favorable for live stock—warm and sunny, with but little wind. This week has been cold, with a little snow. Five degrees above has been our coldest. —D. W. BATEMAN, Great Falls.

### Texas

Conditions in this region could be better, and have been worse. All live stock is going into winter in good shape, but range conditions are dry so far. On account of cheap feed, there are more cattle on feed now than in any other year. They will be marketed in the early spring.—JEFF S. ELLISON, San Angelo.

### Wyoming

Cattle in our locality are in fair condition; those from the reserve are in fine shape. Most ranchers are a little short of hay. Those who can will buy hay, others will ship pretty closely—rather take a low price on their cattle than lose too many toward spring. The weather has been mild. If snow does not cover feed until the end of December, the stockmen will come through the winter all right.—R. A. SCHOONJANS, Saratoga.

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**The Proof.**—"I tell ye," said Pat, "the ould fri'nds are the bist, afther all, and, phwat's more, I can prove it."

"How are you going to prove it?"

"Where will ye find a new fri'nd that has sthud by ye as long as the ould ones have?"—Pathfinder.